

The Gee's Newsletter

Autumn 2006



A warm welcome to São Luis

We finally arrived in São Luis in the second week in August and left behind the many friends we had made in Campinas. We were greeted at the airport by the "Off the Streets" team as well as a number of other missionaries we had met before.

We have begun to work with the team at the drop-in centres three times a week, Sunday School and a few other things. One of the drop-in centres is near a big roundabout, the lads wash the windscreens of the cars when the lights turn red. It's a hot and dirty job and they often sustain injuries, such as burns on their legs from the exhausts of passing motorcycles. One of the lads had a very nasty gash on his leg the other day but was able to receive help from one of

the team. It is through showing compassion in even the simple things that we are able to start to change lives.

The other day at one of the drop in centres, a 10 year old boy came in. He had stowed away onboard a goods train and had traveled for 2 days to get to São Luis. The look on his face was one of bewilderment as the realization of what he had done finally began to sink in.

Here he was, 2 days journey from home in an unfamiliar city where everyone was a stranger. He sat down and talked to one of the centre team as he said he wished to return home. We wait to see what will happen. In some ways he is one of the fortunate ones who makes it, others fall from the trains and don't make it.



Picture; One of the 9 just baptised.

A Growing Church

The church in Jota Lima, just outside São Luis, that was started just a few months ago continues to grow. Week by week new people come along and it is encouraging to see so many children among

them. If numbers continue to increase we will have to buy some more chairs - a great problem to have!

Sunday 17th September was a great day of celebration for the

church as it was the first ever baptismal service. Nine believers were baptized in an old water tank in the shade of a mango tree. We look forward to next time and pray it will be soon.

"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap."

1 Samuel 2:8

Points for Prayer & Praise;

- Pray for new believers who are being persecuted by their families, many of whom are into worshipping spirits.
- Please pray for us as the McConnells return to England for a much needed rest and we fit into the project without them.
- We are thankful for Janice's full recovery from pneumonia and the general good health we have so far enjoyed.

Settling Down

When we arrived in São Luis we stayed at the mission's guest house and had no idea how long it would take us to find a house. It was a great answer to prayer to find a house on our second day here and to move in a week later.

Although we enjoyed living in Campinas we were on the eighth floor of an apartment block but now we are in a house the children can go across to the playground easily and safely without having to use the lift or climb 8 flights of stairs.

The house had been empty for a few months so we had to evict the wildlife before we moved in. not many spiders but plenty of little liz-

ards, crickets, well nourished cockroaches. Then there were the acrobatic frogs in the shower which jumped all over the place to avoid capture and which 2 small people found highly amusing. We're pleased to say we can sleep at night now without the fear of being eaten alive, just to reassure anyone who would like to come and visit us!!

The children have also settled into a school just around the corner run by the Baptist church. Miriam has a friend by the same name as her friend in Campinas and Daniel has already starred as a bush in a school play (gets his acting talent from his Dad).

Preventative Work

One of the joys of being with the project is working with the young children at the "Boas Novas" church. On Saturday they have a Saturday club which involves singing, a Bible story, games and a snack. The children here are from a mixture of backgrounds and accept one another without any trait of hostility. One of the main differences in São Luis is that most people here haven't had much contact with foreigners and so find it enormously difficult to understand us. However, there are certain aspects of communication that seem to go beyond language barriers. My first attempt at teaching a memory verse included decorating a small bun. Al-

though the response to the verbal questions didn't amount to much the response to decorating a bun and consuming it did!

The project has also begun a drop in centre for the children in the district of "João de Deus". This had only just begun when we arrived here and the first week we had 4 children. The second week we had 4 children albeit not the same ones the third which was last week 18 children arrived. As you can imagine this is rather a strategical nightmare in terms of planning a program and it is necessary to be flexible in everything that we do. Letting go and letting God work can be most frustrating and yet is at the very heart of everything that we do in our work here. Knowing how little time we have in the lives of these little ones brings a desire to try and cram a 3 year Bible course into one session and

Visa Application

One of the things about being a missionary here in Brasil is that it seems that every few months we visit the offices of the Federal Police with various bits of paper work. The middle of September was no different as we went to extend our visa for a further year.

We are happy to report that everything went well and we are now awaiting our new ID cards. However, one of the great unanswered ques-

tions is, did the Apostle Paul have to carry around a case full of documents in order to fulfill his missionary tasks?

From the child's mouth!

Missionary Friend: "Daniel, do you know the song 'Dare to be a Daniel?'. It's about how Daniel is a brave and courageous young man"

Daniel: "Oh, well I think I had better change my name to Jonah!"

Our New Address

Michael & Janice Gee,
Rua Rio Anil,
Cond. Mar Del Plata,
Quadra 7, Casa 21,
Recanto Dos Vinhais,
São Luis, MA,
Brasil.
65070-000
michael@thegees.org.uk
janice@thegees.org.uk

~~~~~  
**UFM Worldwide, 145 Faringdon  
Road, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 5DL.  
01793 610 515  
Email; ufm@ufm.org.uk**

yet this is not possible. Accepting that God is using us in even the smallest of tasks is a whole lesson in itself. St Augustine is quoted in a book I have been reading recently which seems to sum up perfectly my sentiments here:

"Do you wish to be great?  
Then begin by being little.  
Do you desire to construct a  
vast lofty fabric? Think first  
about the foundations of hu-  
mility. The higher your  
structure is to be, the  
deeper must be its founda-  
tion. Modest humility is  
beauty's crown".

*We thank you all for your continued support, prayers and letters. As we come to the end of our first year here in Brasil, we look forward to the future and all that it holds for us and hope you will continue to support our work.*

*With many thanks,  
Michael, Janice,  
Daniel & Miriam xxx*