

# *The Gee's Newsletter*

*November 2007*

## *Here, there and everywhere.*

The last few months for us have been very busy. We spent two weeks in Belém in the North of Brazil in mid June at the mission conference and then visited a number of other ministries to better understand the sort of things people are involved in.

After a week back in São Luis to unpack, do the washing and then pack again, we traveled to the UK for a family wedding. The few short weeks we were there flew by, but we were able to meet with some of our supporters in a number of meetings, in the school and our home church in Isleham as well as a meeting in Greater Manchester. But before we knew it, it was time to return to Brazil.

Since our return our roles within the team have changed somewhat and as from the 1st of October Michael be-

came President of the Project and Janice as Vice President, while we look for suitable locals to fill the roles. So as you can imagine, our work load seems to be increasing, with new challenges appearing by the day.

One of our most important and pressing tasks is to encourage the Brazilian churches to understand the importance and joy of regular giving to mission. Our hope is that the project itself will become increasingly reliant on Brazilian support and less dependant on support from overseas. This is a huge mountain to climb for all of us involved in the work but one that must be conquered if the project is to become owned by the people here as it rightly should.

## *Drop-in Centre*

Every Monday and Friday at the drop-in centre we continue to get between 5 to 15 youngsters. Just a few weeks ago a girl of 15 years arrived, she had traveled 2 days in one of the trucks on the iron ore train from a city in the interior of the north-east, she was several months pregnant with twins. If that wasn't sad enough, when she tried to jump off the train before it arrived at the port in São Luis she slipped and all the toes of one foot were cut off by the train's wheel.

She had managed to get the end of her foot sown up but was still in need of a good clean-up. Thankfully she received help from one of the team members and a few days later was persuaded to go to the maternity hospital where she still remains in order to receive the care she

needs. Members of the team are visiting her regularly and sharing the good news of the gospel with her.

In the last two months three young men from the streets have become Christians. One has gone to live with his grandparents and is getting involved with his local church. The other two have also left the streets and have found accommodation. It is very encouraging to see these young people making a fresh start and makes us feel that our work is not in vain. We hope and pray that they will find new strength to resist the temptations of drugs and solvent abuse that have made so many of their teenage years a miserable experience.



### *Points for Prayer and Praise*

#### *Give thanks for...*

- the good time we had in the UK with family and friends.
- safety in all the thousands of miles we have traveled in the past few months.

the lives of those who have been changed for the better through the work of the team at the drop-in centre

#### *Please pray for...*

- wisdom and understanding as we take on new responsibilities.
- all the children and young people who hear the gospel message each week and for their families as the children share with them all they have learnt.
- our co-workers Junior and Cristiani and their 3 children. This family are living at our sitio in J.Lima and are sharing their lives with the community in order to be a witness, However, they are finding security at night a problem.

## ***Igreja Boas Novas The Good News Church***

Our church plant, Igreja Boas Novas, continues to grow and provide new challenges in many areas. One Saturday evening, for example, our project team were invited to take part in a mission conference at one of the local churches here in São Luis. We used this opportunity to share testimonies from our volunteers and we also took along some of the congregation from our church plant in J.Lima. This included a group of young girls between the ages of 8 and 11 who sang a couple of well known choruses. To our delight all the congregation joined in to encourage this little group in their efforts. These young children live in an area where danger surrounds them daily and yet to see them perform reminded me of psalm 8 which says:-

*From the lips of children and infants you  
have ordained praise, because of your ene-  
mies, to silence the foe and the avenger  
(Psalm 8:2).*

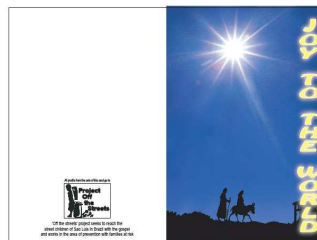
This was a first for the young people of the church but something which we hope will inspire these young people to walk with Jesus more closely day by day.

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*Over the Christmas period we will be selling some Christmas cards (see below) to support the work here in São Luis. Price : £3.50 per pack of 10. If you would like to order some please contact Mrs Emily Yellop c/o Pound Lane Free Church, 28 & 30 Pound Lane, Isleham, Ely, Cambs Tel: 01638 781343 or email us at the above address.*



## ***Clubinho***

We're now back into the swing of the Saturday morning children's evangelistic club and have just finished the theme of mission. Lots of the children had memorized the verses that they had been given and knew how to explain the wordless book, a simple way of explaining the gospel using the colours red, yellow, green, white & black. Again we were able to give bibles to 12 of the children who had fulfilled all that we asked

Now we're in the season of being creative. We're hoping to produce some Christmas cards that we will be able to sell in the local churches here to help cover the costs of the running of the club. So far we've worked with pencil crayons, paint and even ventured as far as using bleach to create patterns in the paint. All the children made a brilliant effort although it was a little hard not to laugh at the picture that had so much bleach on it

***Many thanks once again for  
your support,  
Michael, Janice,  
Daniel & Miriam. xxxx***

that the paper was transformed from white to red and back to white again. I guess we could assume that it was a Christmas scene in the snow! Amazingly despite all our fears all the children completed this task without destroying paper, clothes or themselves. Over the next few weeks we'll be attempting some other techniques with the children to go alongside the teaching of the Christmas story, but per-

haps a little less adventurous!

One of the most encouraging things that we have seen recently is an increasing involvement of some of the teens taking a leadership role and doing so with great enthusiasm. On this same note on Saturday October 13th we celebrated "day of the child". Again we used a group of teenagers from another church in São Luis to

dramatize the joy of having Jesus in their lives. We had assumed we would have between 80 and 100 children and catered accordingly. However, this year we had 150 children arrive. To say we were "bursting at the seams" was an understatement. At times it was a little chaotic and very noisy but somehow we managed to feed everyone both with spiritual food and



Saturday morning with the kids

that which had been prepared in the kitchen for just a hundred.