

The Gee's Newsletter

Autumn 2008

News from the Street

It seems we are often left asking ourselves the question as to why God only created a seven day week and not one with eight days. I suppose the answer is simple really as He didn't want his creation working itself into the ground but designed us to rest every once in a while.

However that doesn't stop us from trying to cram as much as we can into each week. There seems more and more to do and there is rarely a dull moment. There is also a great deal to be thankful for as we look back over the past few months. I think particularly of the work of the project with the youngsters living on the street, a growing number of whom are receiving help in various forms. Some have returned to family, others have entered residential care facilities where they are receiving help and counseling in order to be free from the drugs and alcohol that have taken over their lives. All are doing well despite the

many difficulties they face as they battle against addiction.

Although there are many positive things going on there are still many youngsters on the street and from time to time one loses his life as happened a few weeks ago, stabbed to death by someone from another part of the city. This in itself has made many of us think about our lives and just how fragile they are.

There has recently been discussions with the police and local businesses and the bars and night clubs of the area as to how they might stop the problem of the youngsters on the street. Most of the time it's people coming out of the clubs and bars themselves who are causing the drunken street fights, which then leads to the police being called who then deal brutally with any street living youngster who happens to be nearby. It is easy to forget that in God's eyes we are all as guilty as each other and we all need His help.

Comings and goings

If you need to go anywhere that is slightly distant then the easiest way to do it is by plane in this vast country. In June we went to the mission conference on the banks of the Amazon for a week which was good. Then in July we took a weeks holiday to Fortaleza which was just what the doctor

ordered.

In August we received a flying visit from a friend from our village on her way to Peru. She really blessed the kids at the Clubinho with an aerobics work-out which they enjoyed so much that now they want to know when she is returning!

We recently had a visit from our Pastor, Dave Hall, who came to see how we are doing as well as see the challenges and joys we experience daily. He was also able to visit the drop-in centre a number of times during his visit, and made some new friends. Needless to say he was a great encouragement to us, as it



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Points for praise and Prayer;

- We continue to be thankful for all those who have chosen to leave the streets and pray for their continued strength through this difficult time in their lives.



Adriano in recuperation

- Give thanks for the many children who continue to come to the Clubinho each Saturday morning at the Boas Novas Sitio.

gave us the opportunity to talk about things and think and pray through some of the present issues we are facing.



Time out for the family

God's World

We have just begun a new teaching series at the Saturday morning Clubinho for the 3-11's. It's called "Gods World" and as the title suggests is all about the world, creation, mankind and how we should care for the world and each other and what the Bible has to say about it all.

The first week we looked at how God created everything just by his Word. We made a little table top model of creation and all the kids were invited to go outside and collect things to make it with. Needless to say the boys collected rocks and dirt and the girls brought leaves and flowers which we then arranged around a baking tray full of water and then listened to the story of Jesus and the disciples on the sea of Galilee and Jesus' control over the wind and waves (acted out by some heroic "Lego" men).

At the end the boys offered to clear up and promptly dumped all the dirt into the water which resulted in a very large and messy mud pie, which only goes to teach us how much more they need to learn about caring for God's world! Despite the mess, we continue to enjoy the Clubinho immensely, but as always would love to see more reliable volunteers taking on the work.

Looking Forward

As we have looked back over the past few months we have much to give thanks to God for, we are also very aware of our own weaknesses and failings and our need for His help in our lives and work day by day.

The coming months hold a few challenges for us. The major ongoing challenge we face is to find committed people to serve on the directorate of the project and also a new President and Vice President. We are looking for people who have a real heart for the work and not someone who will just be a name on a piece of paper or in it just for the "glory" of being President. Brazil is no different to many other countries when it comes to people being apathetic about God's work, but we know there must be some committed people out there somewhere.

We continue to be very thankful for the many volunteers who give of their

time week by week but we can always do with more as from time to time others drift off for one reason or another.

A number of the team will be leaving their paid posts with the project at the end of October. Some will leave altogether and some will carry on as volunteers. It has not been an easy few months as we have had to have some frank discussions with some team members over their lack of commitment and love for each other, but there is now a more positive attitude in general which we hope will continue as we all continue to work together. God has been gracious to those who have been honest enough to admit that their time with the pro-

ject has come to a close and the majority of them have found new jobs.

In the coming weeks it is hoped that the Boas Novas Church at the sitio will become legally registered and have its own constitution. Then the process of finding a new Pastor will begin as our present one, Pastor Marcelo, will be leaving at the end of the year due to commitments in his other church.

We are greatly encouraged by the many lives that God is changing, and all the positive things going on gives us hope for the coming weeks and months that lie ahead of us.

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*In the beginning,
God created
the heavens
and the
earth
(Genesis 1:1)*

*We'd like to say a big thank you to all of you
who continue to support us in prayer and in
so many other ways,*

*With our thanks,
Michael, Janice, Daniel & Miriam
xxxx*

**This letter is sent out with the kind help of Mrs Elaine Riley, c/o
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