

News and Prayer matters from Ian & Siméa Meldrum in Olinda, Brazil
4 September 2008

1. Of the **83 children** the council sent to Living Waters 45 are attending regularly and the others sometimes. Ian thinks this is to be expected but hopes it will improve. There are difficulties getting the council to pay the money they promised, so much so that Ian is having to get a government official to put pressure on them. He says it is typical for this to happen. Equipment is in very short supply: basic teaching aids, tables, and sports gear.
2. **My Father's House** is struggling financially because of the exchange rate. When I visited a few years ago the rate was 4.9 reals to the pound, last November it had gone down to 3.9. Now it is 2.8, so the money we send is not going anywhere near as far as it used to. This is having a serious effect on all the projects in Olinda; paying the rent and wages at My Father's House is becoming increasingly difficult.
3. A family have been to visit Olinda from York and have promised £5,000 for the building of the **two classrooms** required to accommodate the extra children at Living Waters. I'm sure their contribution is appreciated and very timely.
4. A new voluntary worker, **David Clay** [SAMS volunteer], has arrived for about 6 months and **Hannah Cross** arrives next week, also for 6 months. We pray they will settle in well and their roles be clear and fruitful. **Val Burgess** is having visa problems and her visit is delayed, but the good news is her father has made a good recovery from his surgery.
5. A sad piece of news is that **Josias**, the 23-year-old who was suffering from leukaemia, has died. Ian was pleased they managed to have a church service for him with a very big attendance and not just at the crematorium which is more usual in Olinda.
6. **Richard Crofts** from SAMS is visiting Ian and Simea in October and they are hoping for more information about Ian's retirement from SAMS next April.
7. **Simea** is keeping well now but has too many things happening. She is, however, thrilled about the way the **Baptist and Presbyterian churches** are working with Living Waters. There is some concern about the wider issues in the Anglican Communion; other denominations are scathing at times and it can be difficult for Ian and Simea.
8. A **medical team** have taken a medically-equipped vehicle to Living Waters and have given over 200 people eye check-ups for many eye conditions. This has been an exciting outreach and something many people living there would never have had the chance of without the church organising it.

9. Please pray for a **new home** for Ian and Simea. They have put their house on the market and want to move to a smaller place which will meet their needs and be safe.