

News from Olinda, Brazil: 1 May 2008

1. **Siméa Meldrum's parents** celebrate their Golden Wedding tomorrow (Friday 2 May) with a big party. I'm sure we all hope they have a great time.

2. A good thing is happening with the **neighbours** at the Aqua Viva Church. They are getting together to concrete the street by the church. It is being done in patches as spare concrete is available. Everyone is paying a bit and they are working together. Praise God.

3. A big issue is working with the **families of the boys in My Father's House**. The boys mostly make good progress when in the house, but the families are still very dysfunctional and living lives involved with drugs and immorality. Ian Meldrum feels it's very important to help the families with understanding the love of Jesus, parenting skills and family values, so that when the boys return they don't go back to their old ways. Siméa is supporting 6 to 8 families at present.

4. Please pray about the **youth work** and a possible reorganisation in the summer.

5. There are quite a number of young girls creating a **baby boom** and many have little or no knowledge of how to look after a newborn. They also come from dysfunctional families.

6. Please pray about the possibility of **opening the farm** to boys who are coming off drugs. This will separate them from the boys in My Father's House until they have got through the withdrawal stage and are less disruptive. Of course it does need money to make it possible but there is a married couple who might be right to go and live there. Others workers would be needed and a vehicle.

7. There are quite a few **volunteers** due in Olinda this year. There is a team of 8 from a church in Newcastle who are going to run a Bible club and a youth camp. Also a boy from Andy Roberts' church for 3 months. Val Burgess is planning 12 months, Hannah Cross 9 months, a young man of 24 years, a school teacher, is going for 6 months, and possibly Georgina at some point. What should their roles be, how does God want them used?

8. I have 15 names so far for the **Bawtry Hall weekend** and I'm sure that will double before long. It will be so good to catch up with those we met last time and hopefully meet some others who didn't manage to get last time who support Ian and Siméa. I'm looking forward to it already, although I'm missing Andy's expertise in organising it.

It always amazes me that so many projects are on the go at once in Olinda; we only get to know about some of them at any one time and yet each prayer letter has a list of important matters to bring before the Lord in prayer.

The love of Christ to you,

Beth Stevenson www.olindamission.no-ip.co.uk