

PROJECT: DONA MARTA

A CHILD IS THE FUTURE

THE PROBLEMS AND THE NEEDS

The problems confronting Brazil are enormous 26% of the population are 14 years of age or under; conservative estimates say that 57 million people are living under the poverty line and life expectancy is 58 years. It is estimated that at least 11% of the population are living in Favelas. Favelas are cardboard houses which have sprung up on the outskirts of cities, built by people who have come in from the outlying areas in hope of work and freedom from poverty. On arrival to the city they realise that work is just as scarce as where they came from. In Rio de Janeiro children are often sent onto the streets to beg or earn money by cleaning shoes and doing odd jobs. Sadly children as young as four years of age often become abandoned and eventually turn to crime and violence. In the city of Rio de Janeiro, 15 children on average are shot dead each week and reports of children being sacrificed as part of satanic rituals.

With these huge needs the Anglican Church in Brazil is trying to alleviate some of the problems. Edmeia Williams works in the Dona Marta Favela home to 35,000 people in Rio where the Church has built a three-storey half brick, half wooden structure. Each day over 140 children receive food, education and learn about the Bible and the life of Christ.

In Recife, Rev Ian and Rev Simea Meldrum are ministering to some of the poorest children in Brazil whose only means of a living is scouring a rubbish tip to find something of value to sell. It is not uncommon for the children or even whole families to eat the scraps of food dumped there in order to survive.



WHAT CAN YOU PRAY FOR?

- The children of the Favelas and those who are abandoned to fend for themselves.
- Edmeia Williams and her team of volunteers who are working in Rio, also those in other parts of Brazil who are working in Orphanages and adoption programmes.
- The ministry team in Recife, especially Rev Ian and Rev Simea Meldrum in their situation.
- Protection against violence and wisdom in the decisions they have to make.

WHAT CAN WE PAY FOR?

- The average weekly wage is \$10.00 for those who have employment, but the value of the money is much greater than in the West.
- Food for one person for one day £0.15
- To feed 140 people each day £21.0
- Year's supply of education materials £250.00