

## Naomi Keefe

Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

Mission: **Church-based community development and evangelism**



You may be aware that the market value of copper worldwide has greatly increased. In Recife most of the telephone and internet cables, which are copper, are all run overhead so are easy to access with a ladder and cutters. There are gangs of young people who climb up and steal the cables even in broad daylight. It can be a dangerous task to remove the cables as some thieves discovered, as several were killed with electric shocks. The rubber is burnt off leaving the precious copper which is then taken to the recycling companies, weighed and exchanged for money. So for the past two weeks my area, like many others, has been without internet connection. I am now very thankful that I am finally back online again.

I am also so thankful to God for two other things in particular:

### 1. Running Water in the taps

Where I used to live in Aguazinha, people have been without running water for three months. Imagine trying to wash your hands and try to prevent the spread of the virus without water, never mind cooking and cleaning!

The area where I now live has a well and a pump, so there is no problem with water.

### 2. The Drain Cleaners

The rainy season has arrived and lots of areas have been affected by severe flooding, with some people losing their belongings as water enters their houses.

I am so thankful for the council men who over a month ago literally went down the public drains to clean out the main drains on my street and removed all the sludge, etc.

Their work paid off, as the rain water in my street was a fast-flowing river, which continued to drain away and enter the river at the bottom of my street. Having seen these young men at work, going down dark holes into a mixture of sewage and drainage with rats, etc, with very little equipment other than a pair of boots, gloves, a shovel, ladder and a wheelbarrow, I am reminded of one family whose father would say to his seven children, "stay in school so you won't end up doing the same job as me."

During the month of May I hope to take an all-day training event at a Compassion International Project three hours away in the interior. Pray for the volunteers at the project as we look at our 'Heavenly Vision' and how we can use the 'St. John the Baptist season' in evangelism strategies. (St John the Baptist day is on 24 June).

As a country the virus situation is still serious.

### Prayer points

- Give thanks for my personal health and safety and the privilege of having running water in the taps and no flooding in my street.
- Pray for the training day in the interior and for safety in getting there and back again, and that there won't be any unexpected horses or cows on the roads as sometimes is the case!
- Continue to pray for Brazil as a country trying to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. On average 2,500 people are dying daily due to the virus and vaccine distribution remains slow. Brazil has now had four different health ministers in post since the beginning of the pandemic and at the moment there are no more 'Coronovac' (Chinese) vaccines available, with many folks having their second dose postponed.
- Give thanks that the Pastor of Beberibe together with his wife were released from the Intensive Care Unit for Covid-19 (his wife spent two weeks in Intensive Care). Continue to pray for them both now at home as they continue to recover.



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**MAY 2021**