

Naomi Keefe

Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

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



Most mornings on my walk with my dog, I meet 'Rafael'. Sifting through the household rubbish, I think is the best way to describe what he does. First 'Rafael' empties everything in the plastic bags out onto the footpath, he then folds up the empty bag and places it into one of his larger carry bags and then proceeds to go through the rubbish he has emptied onto the footpath. Finding a yoghurt pot, he drinks the remainder of its contents and then puts the plastic container into another one of his bags. He then proceeds to eat an old piece of fruit thrown out and empties the crumbs of a packet of crisps into his mouth...

I wonder what would be your reaction if you were to meet him? Normally his conversation with me ends with "Go with God and your dog."

'Rafael' is not the only one I see going through the rubbish left out on the street to be collected later by the bin lorry on my morning walk. One day I counted six on my walk, each of them following a different route, either on a bike, with a supermarket trolley, or simply carrying large plastic bags. The more sophisticated method is a horse and cart, one which my dog unfortunately doesn't like at all!

The day I was booked to get my second covid vaccine, I walked over to the vaccine station and joined a queue of around 20-30 people. An 'official lady' came out of the small vaccination room and I had the opportunity to ask her whether I had to join this queue as I was getting the second dose. She asked for my documentation and whispered "whatever you do don't say anything, just go and sit down in that first chair there." I never saw her again. As I later said to the taxi guy the other day maybe she was



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an angel, because about 5-10 minutes later my name was called to go into the room and I received my vaccine. To me it was evident that God had gone ahead of me. I was back home again within 20 minutes and very thankful to God that I didn't have to join the long queue.

At the end of August, the city council had organised an entire day from 8am until 10pm particularly for the 12-17 age group. Apparently nearly 6,000 were vaccinated on that day. Little incentive to get the vaccine is needed here and thankfully it seems that both numbers of infections and deaths have decreased dramatically.

The Good News Club families continue to work through the devotional booklets in their homes with the volunteers supporting them via WhatsApp and videos.

On 12 October, Childrens' Day is celebrated here in Brazil, so we have planned to hand out a book along with the next devotional booklets and activities to the families.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for God's obvious presence going before me in getting the second dose of the vaccine. Having had my second vaccine I hope to spend a few days away from the city with the dog at the beach in early October. Please pray I will have a restful and enjoyable time.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance in all the various training days and planning meetings with the volunteers in Peixinhos and the Pastor of Beberibe as we try and make plans for a Christmas event and also plans for the new year.