

Naomi Keefe



Location: Olinda, BRAZIL

Mission: Church-based community development and evangelism



This month we have had lots of planning and training sessions for evangelistic events we have planned for the month of June, when various saint days are celebrated including that of John the Baptist.

We plan to use the message of John the Baptist of "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Linking it in to that of a man enslaved with a heavy, dirty burden of sin that he can't get rid of on his own.

In Beberibe we had a young eight year old who came along to our planning meetings and was so enthusiastic with lots of ideas for the event and it was wonderful how she had been reading John Bunyan's book, 'The Pilgrim's Progress' and was able to share with us how "Christian couldn't get rid of his burden on his own even when his friends told him to get rid of it, he couldn't. Even scrubbing and scrubbing his burden the dirtiness wouldn't come out." She is the only Christian in her family and comes to church every Sunday morning and evening with her elderly neighbour who is a keen volunteer in the evangelism events.

Peixinhos planning meetings went well with children and adults participating together in how we were 'Going fishing'.

Rafael (8 years old) volunteered saying that he was going to be the "preacher" (his words not mine) and summarise the event at the end with a short message.

It was a real joy for all the volunteers to see the enthusiasm of the young folk keen on reaching out with the Good News of Jesus to their friends and family members who still do not know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. At the end of May, excessive rains have caused severe flooding in the Recife area of Brazil. At the time of writing, 85 people have been killed and many more are missing. More than 2,000 people are in temporary accommodation as they have lost everything. More rains are expected. My neighbours, three doors up, had to abandon their house and carry their elderly mother-in-law to safety, together with some personal belongings and their two dogs. I am very thankful that I live on the second floor.

I hope to be available in September for deputation meetings in Ireland, and if you would be interested in having me to speak, please get in touch with Beverley in the Mission Department by emailing: mission@ presbyterianireland.org. (Please note Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are already booked up.)

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the keenness of the volunteers to 'Go Fishing'.
- Pray for the various evangelistic events out in the communities of both Peixinhos and Beberibe during the month of June and pray that the rains will hold off as each event is held outside.
- Continue to pray for the training events using Sam Doherty's book 'Principles of Teaching' in both Peixinhos and Beberibe.
- Pray for people who have lost loved ones in the floods and those waiting for news of missing people. Pray too for those who have had to flee their home and others who have suffered damage to their homes and businesses. Pray for a pause in the rains, so that he water can fully recede and that no further floods will occur.



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