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Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

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



How is your vision?

When was the last time you had your eyes tested?

Do you need to clean your glasses?

How often do you clean your glasses?

But the first key question is, can you actually see or are you blind?

There is no use in putting on glasses, nor in cleaning your glasses if you can't actually see in the first place!

The initial training sessions that I have taken this year with the leaders and volunteers of various congregations have started with these questions as we look at the importance of sight and vision in order to do things correctly.

Using Sam Doherty's book on 'Obedience to the Heavenly Vision' (available free from CEF Specialised Book Ministries) we then have a Bible study session looking at:

- Our vision of God
- Who we are before this God
- Who others are before God and how he sees them
- A vision of the gospel and its power.

We are discovering together that 'vision' before 'action' in our evangelistic and discipleship activities is essential if we are to be "obedient to the heavenly vision".

A quote from Sam Doherty's book summarises what we should want to 'see'...

"The Bible clearly outlines the spiritual needs of children:

- They are spiritually dead and need spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1,5)
- They have a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:3) and need to be changed. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- They are outside God's kingdom (Matthew 18:3) and

need to be born again (John 3:3,5 and 7)

- They are lost as far as their position is concerned (Matthew 18:11-13)

... To think of children as dead, outside God's kingdom, sinful and lost is quite foreign and difficult for many of us... But this what the Word of God clearly teaches, and we need to see these truths to have a true biblical vision of the children's needs. So often our eyes are closed and we need to pray 'Oh, God, help me to see the need, the deep spiritual need, of the children and the possibility of them being lost forever.' As we have this vision of the children and their needs, our hearts will, like that of the Saviour, be moved with compassion, and we will want to reach them with the Gospel."

I would ask you to pray that this heavenly vision from God would be given to all of us here.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for training sessions with leaders and continue to pray for the various congregations involved as some look for the first time at their vision and others give their spiritual glasses a cleaning.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the government of Brazil in the acquisition and distribution of vaccines for the population. (Less than 1% of the population of Brazil have been vaccinated so far, despite Brazil having a total so far of 250,000 deaths and 10.3 million cases of Covid-19).
- Pray for the Good News Club children and their families as they undertake the devotional activities, on a weekly basis in their own homes, based on John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance regarding when to start physical meetings again with the families in the favela. (Public schools are still making tentative plans to starting back after a year of online teaching).