

**Naomi Keefe**

Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

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



'The Mission of the Messiah' has been the theme for our Easter outreach amongst the Good News Club families, the football guys, and the Coffee with God Bible Study group. The M&Ms sweets are being used again with the challenge of seeing how many words beginning with the letter M the children and teenagers can find that are linked to the Easter message of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

The nursing home visit this Easter will concentrate on the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. The 40 elderly people will receive a small towel with the words 'Serving the Lord with Joy' sewn on to the towels by the volunteers. The theme is based on Matthew 20:28 of how the Lord Jesus, Creator of the universe, the All Powerful One, the King of Kings and Saviour was ready to serve, not just with a bowl of water and a towel, but to "serve and give his life to save many." Some of the teenagers hope to go with a volunteer to the nursing home. As no visitors are allowed in at present they will deliver the gifts to the home carers for them to distribute.

The Covid-19 situation here remains extremely serious with increases in cases and beds in the intensive care units being full up, both in the private and public sector. Covid-19 and variant strains are very prevalent and there is an increasing number of young people in the 30 – 40 group and young children who are now hospitalised. During March the state of Pernambuco implemented 11 days of stricter restrictions, with beaches and parks being closed with only essential shops allowed to be opened to try and reduce the number of Covid-19 cases.

Public schools are still online and the Reading Room is only open for borrowing books at certain times. The children come and collect their books in zip lock bags made by our volunteers and they then return them the following week. One mother and her daughter are having a competition to see who will be first to read the whole series of Anne of Green Gables.



*Photo: Training sessions with leaders and volunteers of a Baptist congregation as we looked at the importance of our vision.*

**Prayer points**

- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the government in the acquisition and distribution of vaccines for the population. (less than 6% of the population of Brazil have been vaccinated so far). The state of Pernambuco is still vaccinating the elderly and health workers. Please remember Brazil as a country at this difficult time having a total so far of 300,000 deaths and over 11 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 the volunteers as they continue to keep in touch by WhatsApp.
- Pray for the children coming to borrow the books from the Reading Room that they will use this time of not going to school to improve their reading skills.
- Give thanks for the Easter outreach opportunities and pray that God will speak to each of the families and that many will come to know Jesus as their Messiah.