

Naomi Keefe

Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

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



In Beberibe over the past 2 months the weekly 'Doctrine and Prayer service' has taken on a Christmas theme. Max Lucado's book "Because of Bethlehem - love is born, Hope is here", with its devotional guide of advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love is proving useful in looking at some ideas of how to use the Christmas season with its gifts, decorations, tree, snow etc. as evangelistic tools. Following Paul's example of when he used the altar to an unknown god to explain the Good News of Jesus to the people of his day, we have been looking at using snow, Christmas trees, wreathes, candy canes, Christingles and advent calendars to start off evangelistic conversations with family members and folks in the community.

It is encouraging to see the members begin to think outside-the-box and select the decorations on their trees and wreathes to share the Good News of Jesus.

One lady met me in the street as I was walking the dog and was so excited to share with me how several neighbours had started to ask what all the decorations on her home-made wreath meant. One of the other ladies said that the water-man when he came into the house to deliver the water asked what the 'decorated orange' was all about and she was able to share the Good News of Jesus with him.



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December/January 2024

These simple tools of decorations which are very popular with Brazilians, as they tend to go all out for festivities and decorations, is proving a simple way of starting up conversations with folks about the true meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

Baby showers, Birthday parties and wedding parties are all being used to reach out to the folks at this time of year (looking at the first advent and looking forward to the second).

Thanks for all your prayers and support here in Olinda/Recife over this past year, we really appreciate them.



Prayer points:

- Pray for the various evangelistic events both in the communities of Peixinhos and Beberibe planned for the month of December.
- Pray for opportunities for the members of both congregations to share the Good News of Jesus and who He really is over this season, using their decorations as simple conversation starters.
- Give thanks for how God has continued over this year to open doors to reach out to the lost through the various activities, of Good News Club, Coffee with God Bible Studies, Football evangelism, nursing home visits, reading in the Park, Reading Room activities. Pray that God would continue to speak to many and bring them to Himself.