

Naomi Keefe

Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

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



The month of February has been very hot and busy with training sessions with both Peixinhos and Beberibe; organizing and producing contextualized material for both groups; purchasing books and Puppets; Reading in the Park activities; and Good news Club and 'iFood with God' for the 10plus group.

In a recent 'Reading in the Park' activity one of our young volunteers of 9 years old told the story at storytelling time which was great.

In the middle of all these activities I managed to get a few days away relaxing at the beach.

March starts with Carnaval festivities. This year in Recife and Olinda the festivities have been extended for 10 days to include another holiday. Some of the teenager volunteers who are involved in the Good News Club are going to a combined church camp with the 2 Presbyterian congregations from Peixinhos. Beberibe congregation don't have a camp retreat this year as usually, they can only afford to organise one every 2 to 3 yrs. This year most of the members are either working over Carnaval or staying indoors.

Carnaval is usually a time of excessive drinking and partying on the streets which often leads to a lot of criminal activities. The scene of loud music blasting over speakers with a large crowd of people of all ages, dancing and drinking meaning that the top of my street was closed off to traffic is the norm at this time. The walls of my building were actually vibrating with the loudness of the music!! The next morning walking the dog I found the street littered with broken beer bottles, condoms and rubbish etc. even after the small shop owners had tried to tidy up.

People are contracted to clean the streets of the historic parts of Olinda every day of Carnaval and hose them down with water and detergent ready for the next main Carnaval events. Peixinhos like so many other poor suburbs have had very little water coming into their house taps during the whole month of February as water has been rationed.



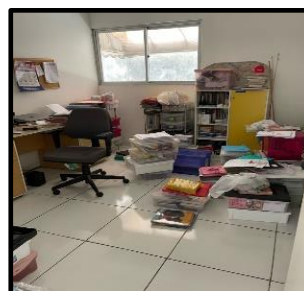
GLOBAL DISCIPLES
Go Deep Go Wide

March 2025

A bit ironic as somehow there is enough water to wash down the streets after each day of partying!

Beberibe congregation, due to safety precautions and the difficulty of folks actually getting to the meeting house, are not having services or activities during this carnival time. Hence this is a time in which I hope over the next 10 days to organise my study and prepare material for the next months.

During the day time it is actually quite quiet as most folks have either gone to their beach houses, camp retreats, or the main party events in the centre of Olinda and Recife, so my plan is to get a lot of things organized.



Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the new strategy of 'iFood with God' Bible study. So far 25 young folk have been turning up each Friday night.
- Pray for safety over the Carnaval period and particularly for the children of the Good news Club who often have to accompany their parents to these events to either work or the party. Pray that God would protect them as the Psalmist says "under the shadow of His wings."
- Continue to pray for training sessions in both Beberibe and Peixinhos.
- Pray too that the PCI website, which folks in Brasil including myself and the partner church here have been unable to access since early Sept 2024, will soon be available to us again.