



August-September 2010

August:

Country Focus - Brazil

This year, Brazil experienced their worst rainy season for half a century. First, Rio de Janeiro was badly hit, resulting in floods and landslides which killed over 100 people. Then more recently a week of torrential rain caused severe flooding in the north-east, with rivers overflowing and dams bursting their banks. Entire villages were swept away under the intense barrage of water, leaving over 70 dead and 150,000 homeless. In some places, the devastation is so thorough that the village must be rebuilt on a completely different site. Despite the commendable aid efforts of the government, they struggled to reach the affected areas over the miles of road washed away by the floodwaters. Many survivors have been fortunate enough to be taken in by relatives living elsewhere in the country, but there are still some 50,000 people now forced to live on the streets.

Thankfully, our Hope and Life Centre in Recife was unaffected by the floods and everyone there is safe. Our partners have been supporting survivors of the flooded areas, providing them with food, water, shelter, bedding and clothes.

Please pray:

- Thanking God for His protection of the city of Recife.
- That the government's efforts to care for the survivors continue.
- That our partners receive support enabling them to help the newly homeless.
- That God will comfort those affected, in body, mind and spirit.



September:

Project Focus - India

India is home to an estimated 11-18 million street children, roughly the equivalent of the population of all children in the UK. Abused and neglected by their families, millions of children are driven to the streets of the big cities by despair. Once there, they face horrific risks and are often exposed to drug trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery. Even working 10-12 hours a day they do not earn enough for a basic subsistence living. The situation is even worse for girls who are routinely sexually abused and sold to brothels.

Our partners in Vijayawada see about 30 new children arrive through the train station every day. It is the first few days in the city when the children are most at risk. Our partners' desk on the station platform reaches out to these children before they get sucked into the cycle of violence and exploitation. The children are welcomed to our drop-in centre where they can be properly cared for and, wherever possible, reintegrated with their families.

Please pray:

- For new arrivals at the station, that they will find help before joining life on the streets.
- For parents living in difficult situations, that they will learn to better care for their children.
- That God will heal those children who have been abused and exploited.
- For God's protection over those who are new to the streets, especially young girls.