

November, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is wonderful to be able to write this newsletter to you. It is amazing how time goes by so fast. It has been four months since we left Brazil and arrived in the UK. We still remember a couple of months ago sitting in our living room back in our home in Brazil trying to foresee how life and ministry would in reality be for us in this country and we have to say that it could not be better. We have been warmly welcomed by the three Associations, BMS and the Baptist churches we have been in contact with. You are making us feel one of you and this is what the project is all about - integration.

Our settlement process is almost over. The children are attending the local junior school called St. Nicholas and they seem to be having lots of fun. We praise God for that.

Ministry

During this time we have been working hard to pinpoint the Portuguese-speaking communities in the area and their needs. We are amazed at the big challenge we have ahead. There are lots of them spread over the three Associations and interestingly nobody is trying to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus.

Because the need is so great we have started to be pro-active. At the moment we have started bible studies and worship services in three locations: Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Rugby. The response has been brilliant. Many people have been attending the services and many have accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

We are also running a "listening ear" program where we have the opportunity to talk to people who need somebody to share their feelings, struggles and difficulties. This has been proven to be very effective as it gives us a possibility to build friendship and show the migrants that somebody cares.

Challenges Ahead





As we said before there are lots of opportunities and challenges, but the immediate ones for the beginning of next year are starting the project in South Lincolnshire (East Midlands) more specifically Spalding, Boston and Grantham area. We have had a good conversation with the pastors of these three areas and the response was great.

The Dirft project in Crick, Northamptonshire (Central Association). This is a huge project run by URC and we have been invited to be part of it. Dirft is a huge industrial area which accommodates most of the big companies where houses in this country. They employ over 8000 migrant workers. The idea is to be there to serve the Portuguese speaking worker providing chaplaincy. It's going to be a great way to get to know people and assess their needs.

The child has got a name

No, we are not talking about having another child. We finally gave the project a name. It is going to be called "AMIGOS". It is a name that everybody knows the meaning (just to be sure, it means Friends) and portrays the spirit of what the project is about; Letting the migrant know that somebody cares for them. It also has got a logo. We will send it to you next time.

Prayer Request

-  Please pray for wisdom and discernment from God, so we might be able to understand the door that are opened by God and the ones which are not.
-  For our children Vinicius (Vinnie) and Isabelle. It has been a very hectic time for them too.
-  For the Holy Spirit to move amongst Portuguese speaking migrants as they hear the Gospel of Jesus.
-  Pray for successful connections with local authorities.

In Christ,

Jorge & Hermelinda Damasceno
Mission Enablers