



Aureni

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Reflecting...

a mission report
from Recife, Brazil

PROJECT "FLUFBEARS"

They are the cutest bears you have ever seen! We call them "Fofursos" which is a combination of two Portuguese words: *fofo* (fluffy) and *urso* (bear).

Three years ago a small group of ladies started making bears for kids undergoing cancer treatments in public hospitals.

We get together once a week around a big table to cut, sew, stuff and... talk! You see, when the group started I thought we would spend the afternoon only making bears. What I didn't know was that God had bigger ideas in mind. He is always surprising us! He used that time to help us

grow spiritually, get closer to one another and to share the Gospel. Two of the most dedicated ladies of the group are neighbors of mine who met the church through this ministry.

I wish you could be here when the day of the bear delivery arrives and see how proudly we hand out our gifts of love to the children.

This year we visited an institution that hosts kids that come from rural areas to receive medical treatment in various hospitals in Recife.

We had the opportunity to present a little

Bible skit and then hand out their stuffed bears. They absolutely loved it!

On the last day of the year, I found out that there were some children at a hospital nearby that were not going to be able to go home for the New Years holiday. So we made a special visit at the end of the day to see them and give them a bear.

It was my last activity of 2008 and it helped me to be more grateful for the gift of health our family enjoyed this past year. Also, seeing these brave little kids was a lesson of courage that I will always treasure. 🍷



Helping little ones learn about Jesus



Edson (left and insert) shares the hope that Jesus brings

THE BREAD WALK

Every Wednesday evening after church a group goes out to visit the homeless that live on the streets of downtown Recife. They are usually young men and women who are addicted to drugs, usually shoemakers' glue and crack cocaine since these are the cheapest they can get.

We take sandwiches and juice to hand out and try to develop some kind of relationship with them. You would be shocked to see how many are lying around alleys, sidewalks and parks. Many of the girls are pregnant, many are minors already engaged in a life of total promiscuity. They usually hang out in groups for protection.

We know most of them by name and they know who we are. Some of them have visited our church services. We keep a closet with clothes, sandals, towels and soap. When they show up, we let them shower, put on some clean clothes and eat something so they feel better and can participate in our service.

Our goal is to try to be a positive influence in their lives so that we can share with them about God's love and His plan for their lives.

Edson, 22, is one of God's success stories. We met him on the streets and started a relationship with him. The first time he came to church he was high on glue. Ed-

son was a drug addict and had been living on the streets for six years. He also had contracted Hansen's disease (leprosy). He was tired of the street life and needed encouragement and love.

Today, Edson is a Christian man who is an encouragement to all of us. He no longer lives on the streets. He is a joyful and funny guy you would love to meet. Our youth group is crazy about him. He is so grateful for everything he now has. He likes to tell us all the time: "You are my family and I never want to leave God's presence, never!" Edson now helps us deliver the bread to his old street buddies and he is our best illustration of how Jesus can change lives! 🍷

