



## Letters page

These letters all tell true stories about the different aspects of the PEPEs, from how they began to the changes they are now making. We've created the character of Mr Eyeseneers to make the stories more engaging.

Each week, read one letter out to your group. Where we have written Dear Group, exchange the word 'Group' for your group's name.

Think about creative props to help the children to engage with the story; eg, salsa music to set the scene for Brazil, or pictures from a travel brochure or magazine to show the country and wildlife of Angola and Mozambique. If you have someone in the church who is from, or has visited, any of those countries, invite them to your session to give a two-minute talk about their memories of being there.

At the end of each letter are some questions to ask the children, to get them thinking about the issues brought up by Mr Eyeseneers

### Look around you!

Letter 1

## How PEPEs began

Dear Group,

Hello! I'm Mr Eyeseneers, and I'm writing to you about some things I've recently discovered when I went undercover in Brazil. Let me tell you about Georgie and Stuart Christine. They live in São Paulo, in Brazil, and they work for BMS World Mission.

One day, they were walking around a favela (an extremely poor area) and they looked about them. They saw a sad sight; lots of children playing in the dirt, with no books in the tiny, broken down shacks they lived in, and no idea at all about numbers or writing. Their mums and dads often had no jobs and couldn't read or write either so didn't know how to help them.

I've discovered that children here don't usually go to school until they are seven years old. What age did you start school? Many of these children cannot cope at school and drop out after a year or so. But with no education, there's nothing for them to do. They often get very frustrated, and so get involved in crime, drugs and other activities that spoil their lives.

Well, Georgie and Stuart decided something must be done to change this horrid situation.

They set up a pre-school class for 25 children, getting them ready to go to big school. They called it a PEPE.

The PEPEs are a great success - since they began 6,000 children have now enjoyed the PEPEs in Brazil and have made a good start to their school life. Think what a difference this makes!

The PEPE project is run by the local church and it's a great way for them to show Jesus' love to others. Now there are PEPEs in Mozambique and Angola too - all the way over in Africa! And it all started with going for a walk and having a look around.

So next time you're out - take a good look around you - you never know where it may lead you! I'll write again soon,

Mr Eyeseneers



### Questions for Letter 1

What is a 'favela'?

How many children now go to the PEPEs in Brazil?

What is a PEPE?

Dear Group,

Hello again! Mr Eyesenears here! Now, this week in my voyage of discovery here in Brazil, I heard the most amazing story. It was told by a woman who worked hard for her church. She ran a soup kitchen in the favela, giving free soup to the children on the street.

She said, "This teenager approached me on the street. I was scared. The way he was dressed, the way he moved... I thought I was going to be mugged. He stopped right in front of me and spoke. He said 'Hi Auntie!' I didn't know what to think!"

"Don't you remember me?" he said, "I'm Julio - from the soup kitchen." I began to recognise the child's face I used to see every week at the food hand-out; now he had the hardened features of a street-wise teenager. "Julio! You've changed!" I said. "How are things? I haven't seen you at the kitchen for ages."

"No," he replied, "that's right, Auntie. You see, I wasted a lot of time at that soup kitchen!"

"What do you mean, 'wasted a lot of time'? I thought you liked the soup", I said. "Yeah, the soup was OK," he said, "but what I was really looking for, was some different way of growing up. But all I got was soup."

You see, the soup didn't really make a difference to Julio's life. This church doesn't run the soup kitchen anymore. Instead, they run the PEPE, helping educate children every day in the favela. Now, they offer much more than 'just soup' - now they're really changing lives.

Well, that's all from me for now. I've got an assignment for you now, and this is it: have fun today!

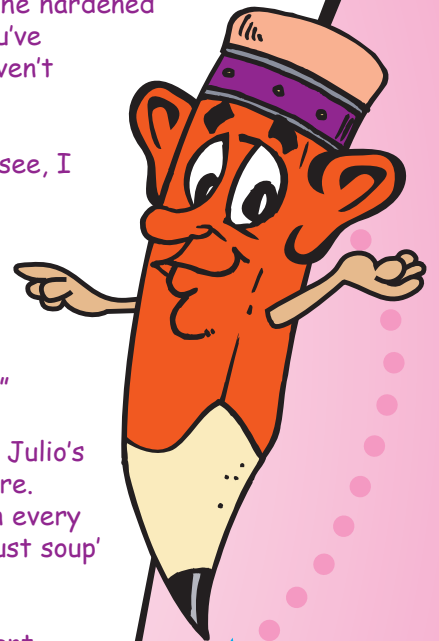
Mr Eyesenears

## Questions for Letter 2

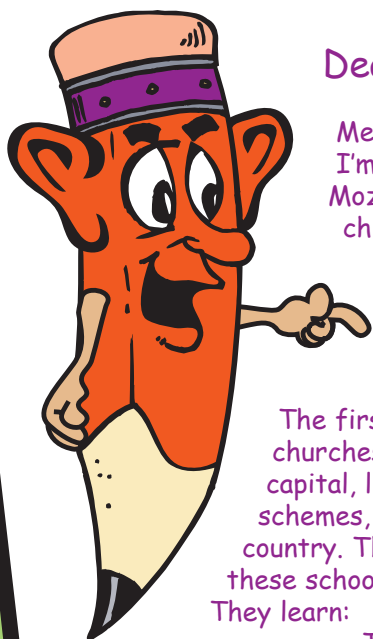
What was the boy's name?

Did he like going to the soup kitchen?

What help did the soup kitchen give him?  
What was better about the help the school provided?



## Beira, Mozambique



Dear Group,

Me again! Mr Eyesenears writing to you, this time from Mozambique! I'm writing to tell you about Beira, the first place to have PEPEs in Mozambique. Remember what PEPEs are? That's right - schools for little children to get them ready before they go to big school when they're seven. They're really making a difference here.

Beira is the country's second city (like Britain's equivalent of Birmingham).

The first PEPE began here in 2001. Now there are eight churches in Beira and eight in Maputo (Mozambique's capital, like Britain's equivalent of London) running PEPE schemes, plus two more in another part of the country. There are around 540 children going to these schools.

They learn:

- To speak Portuguese
- To count to 20
- To write their names
- To know about their environment
- How to stay healthy
- That Jesus loves them



In Mozambique, lots of children arrive at school aged seven, and don't even know how to hold a pencil. Can you imagine not knowing this?

They arrive at school and don't understand the lessons. Many of them have difficult home lives and living conditions. These things often mean children lose heart and drop out of school by the age of eight or nine.

The PEPEs are changing this, by giving them a good start. It's a great

project, and the more money we can raise, the more PEPEs we can start, giving more children a better start - just like you've had.

Well, that's all for now. Enjoy yourselves today!

Mr Eyesenears

### Questions for Letter 3

Can you remember the names of the cities Mr Eyesenears wrote about today?

Can you remember three things the children learn at the PEPEs there?

Dear Group,

My goodness, you wouldn't believe the stories I've heard this week! I'll have to be quick, as I'm meeting Mrs Eyesenears. But in the meantime, here are two stories of changed lives in the favelas of São Paulo - it's a very dangerous place, you know.

One man from the church here said: "I was amazed to be invited into the home of one of the PEPE pupils. I've known that family for years. At least half a dozen of their family have been killed due to being mixed up in drugs and crime. Even I was beaten up by them a couple of years ago, and the church had never got past the front door to that home. It was amazing; we were welcomed in because of the PEPE!"

One mum started to attend church after her five year old began to go to the PEPE pre-school in a favela slum on the south side of the city. Six months later she became a Christian; in September 2001 she was baptised and now she's started to work as a second teacher at the school!

It's great to see how the PEPEs are helping children and adults. The PEPEs have really made the church liked by the community.

Great news eh? So keep up the good work with your fundraising!

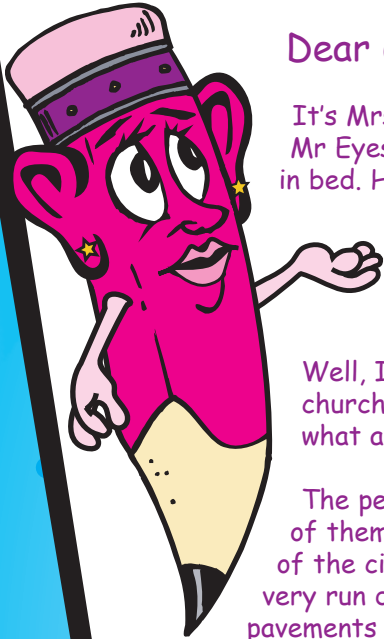
Mr Eyesenears

### Questions for Letter 4

Why was the man surprised to be invited to the house of one of the pupils from the PEPE?

Do you think it's good for the church to be running the PEPEs? Why?





Dear Group,

It's Mrs Eyesenears writing to you today; Mr Eyesenears has got a cold and is stuck in bed. He's asked me to have a look around and see what's going on in Beira, here in Mozambique, and to write and let you know.

Well, I can tell you that eight churches here are running PEPEs - you know what a PEPE is by now, don't you?

The people living in this area are very poor. Most of them live in huts without clean drinking water, on the edge of the city. They have no money for repairs, and everything is very run down. The roads have big potholes in them, and the pavements are cracked with tree roots pushing through. What's the road like where you live?

When you look around here, you'll see lots of children. Lots of them have no parents. They live on the streets, and work there, too. There are lots of diseases here, especially Aids and malaria, both of which kill many people. There are lots of different beliefs and ideas. In the middle of all this, the local churches and their PEPEs are bringing God's love and hope to the community. People are getting to know Jesus for themselves.

Some of the PEPEs are in stone rooms, and others have woven reeds for walls. All are busy with children learning. The children love to sing all sorts of songs before they have a snack and leave.

Well, I shall have to get back to make Mr Eyesenears a nice cup of tea. I hope you're all well, and don't have any coughs or colds. Terrible things!

Have a good, clean, healthy week!

Mrs  
Eyesenears

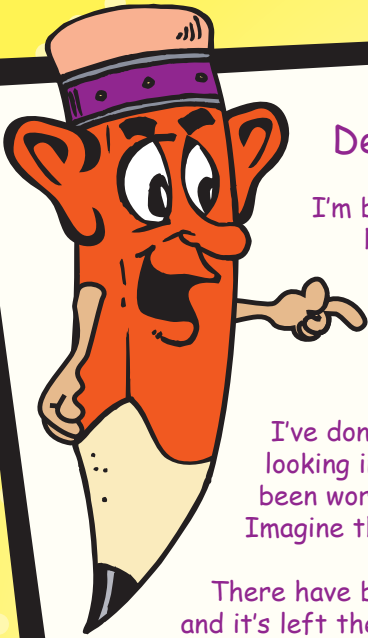


### Questions for Letter 5

What are the streets like in Beira?

What do the children enjoy doing in the PEPEs here?

# Angola



Dear Group,

I'm back again! A picture of health once more! I put my swift recovery down to Mrs Eyeseneers' special, extra strong cups of tea - they really do work wonders!

I've done a bit of travelling recently, and I'm looking into Angola. BMS World Mission has been working there for over a hundred years! Imagine that!

There have been a lot of problems with war in Angola, and it's left the country very poor indeed. But in 2002, a peace declaration ended the war, and now people are starting to look forward to a safer future.

I have discovered that BMS is supporting the training of two local people who will lead the PEPE project in Angola. They are Maria and Noe. Lynne Brown, a BMS mission worker who has worked with the PEPEs in Mozambique and Brazil before, is going to Angola to help them. These schools will change the lives of children in Angola forever! But they'll need support if it's going to work. You could help these children by raising money to send to BMS and by praying for them. Please help make this possible!

That's all for now, take care of yourselves,

Mr Eyeseneers



## Questions for Letter 6

How many people are BMS supporting to run a PEPE in Angola? Can you remember their names?

Would you like to help give the children of Angola the chance of an education? How can you do this?