

# Barbara Knoyle

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## Prayer Letter March 2009

*Dear friends,*

Many things have happened since my last letter! One of the highlights of last month included the chance to meet all the BMS workers working in north-east Brazil, when we had our AGM at Trapiá. They are amazing people and it was very encouraging to get to know them and share some time with them. I was invited to stay with the Dyers in Natal, the capital of Rio Grande do Norte (state in which Trapiá is located.) There, I was able to obtain a necessary document and had the opportunity to get to know the Dyers' work a little better. I was invited to their church's weekend retreat, which was a time of spiritual refreshment and a great opportunity to make friends within the fellowship. At the end of the weekend, I was asked to give a word of reflection and encouragement at Pirangi Baptist Church, which was a great honour for me. I am thankful for Maria Dyer's help with some language queries!

During the end of February, it was decided that the Trapiá PEPE (Pre-school education project) that I was to be involved with would not go ahead as planned, and that I'd be relocated to São Paulo, with a view of returning to the north-east to continue my work there at a later date. The people of Trapiá are very special to me, and it has been a blessing to be able to meet them and get to witness the great work that Mike and Daveen Wilson do within the community. I left Trapiá at the beginning of March, and headed for Fortaleza (within the state of Ceará) to attend a training course that BMS worker Suzana Greenwood is responsible for. The training was excellent, and I was able to help Suzana with some planning materials for the Espaço Voar (Room to Fly) children's project.

After an invite to stay in Recife, I took the 12-hour bus journey east to Fortaleza (State of Pernambuco) where I spent five days visiting various PEPE groups with the state co-ordinator, who kindly took me to visit many groups and even invited me to her home for Sunday lunch. I stayed at the Seminario de Educacao Crista (Seminary of Christian



Education) and it was so encouraging to meet other mission workers, and the seminary students undertaking courses there. The staff were very warm and welcoming, and I even had a party of people waiting for my arrival! The seminary itself was built by American missionaries around 90 years ago, so doesn't look like a Brazilian building. Even so, it does have an impressive porch at the front of the building, and beautifully high ceilings and old-fashioned wooden furniture inside. Recife is very hot, and the interior of the state is even hotter. The locals joke that if you stand near a coconut palm in some of the interior towns, you can hear the coconut milk boiling!

From Recife, I travelled south to São Paulo. I am living at the BMS mission centre within the south-west of the state of São Paulo along with four others. It's lovely to see Chris and Micah Leitch again, and remember our time together during our training at IMC. Adriana and Lee, both involved with PEPEs, also live with us, and are great. I have been here four days so far, and am enjoying my work – I have already been to visit some PEPE groups at various locations within the city and am looking forward to the other tasks planned for my first week here.

*With love in Christ,*  
**Barbara**

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