

## May 2011

This month we celebrated mothers, and even though this won't reach in time for that day, I would like to tell a Mother's Day Story. It started about 16 years ago, when a mother, Edna, brought her 3 children to Maanaim. She had no one to help her, but had heard that Maanaim was a place where she would not be turned away. **(Edna)**



She walked 2 hours to bring them, 2 hours back home, 2 hours to pick them up and 2 hours to take them home. This she did with a smile and confidence that they would have a better life if she made the effort to get them to Maanaim. Rain or shine they attended school. The 3 girls thrived, made friends and become one of our family. **(Edna & young Family)**



Eventually the mother became our cleaning lady and served faithful for 12 years. The girls grew up went through all the programs and graduated with flying colors. The one girl, Joselaine, after graduation, became an intern in our computer lab so she could help others like she had been helped. This made her want to further her education and she decided to go to college and take Computer Science. She took the entrance exam, got a partial scholarship and prayed that some way she would be able to pay the tuition. As you might remember from previous newsletters, last year we decided to help her make this dream come true and pay for the remaining tuition. Joselaine is doing very well, adjusting to a rigorous schedule and a 2hour bus ride to and from school. She is not giving up and this spirit was instilled in her via her mother.

On our recent trip to Brazil Joselaine was present at all the church meetings and every event that was held at Maanaim. She brought her nephew and sister with her and they entered in the services and had fun at the events.

We also learned that they are being evicted from their house. Now most would say if you saw the house, that this is a blessing. The house is in great disrepair, mold on all the walls and a very leaky roof. This is the house they have lived in for many years and it is their home and they do not want to leave. Recently the city has said the house is uninhabitable due to the heavy rains that have caused it to be unstable. I did not want to take a lot of pictures of the house because I did not want to embarrass them, but believe me that it is not fit for anything or anyone to live in. Edna is sick and can longer work; she is getting a small pension for her disability.

# Celebrate Mothers



(Neighborhood House)

They are living on very little, but are managing with what they have. Joselaine has recently gotten a paid internship that will definitely help with the household. When we visited we took food, clothes and blankets for the family. Their winters are miserable, no heating in their houses, and it gets very cold! (delivering joy)



We are praying that they get a better and more reasonable rent in a new house. They deserve the best that God has for them and when they find a house if it needs work we will be willing to help make it as comfortable as possible. Please keep them in your prayers. This mother's story is not over, she has the will and tenacity to provide and protect her family. She has

done so from the time they were babies and now that they are young ladies. She is an inspiration to her family and to me and our organization. She has been a part of our past, is a part of our present and her and her family will be a part of our future.

On our recent trip to Brazil we saw many positive things happening. Many faithful people working tirelessly to advance the Kingdom. We saw the new church of Ana Paula's growing, her children's work getting bigger and bigger every month. The work we partner with at Novidade de Vida going strong and changing lives and homes. I will elaborate on those events in the next newsletter.



I would like to present a need that we saw as very prevalent in the area, no warm coats for either adults or children. I would like to start a project to receive via donations, 100 coats. The most immediate need would be children's coats, ages 4 -14. I have experienced, while dressed in my sweater and coat, the bone chilling cold of Sao Paulo. While dressed like this and still freezing, watched many children dressed in thread bare clothes and just sandals on their feet. It breaks your heart and I and others have gone home with the minimum amount of clothing and once no shoes, after giving away what I could and still the many have nothing. I know that it is hard to conceive the idea while we are here in the beginning of summer, but they will be starting their winter as we start summer. Consider this the **Summer of the Coats**, make it a group or individual project, but please participate. Any items can be sent to our office or to my house and I and others will deliver them to Brazil and the children. I hope to make this an on going project and that the 100 will be just a beginning. Love from all of us.

**Jer. 29:11 (NIV)**

"For I know the plans that I have for you," Declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."