

THE CRY FOR SERVICE

the cry: an advocacy journal of word made flesh fall 2007 - vol. 13, no. 3



SERVING JESUS
AMONG THE POOREST OF THE POOR



LOAVES AND FISH

Administration as Service

BROKEN – BEAUTIFUL

Photos by the Lighthouse Youth of Sierra Leone

A SPIRITUALITY OF GLADNESS

A Reflection



- Peru Christmas Card Sale
- Brazil Fund-raising Campaign

service

intimacy obedience humility community simplicity submission brokenness suffering
\$12/year US | \$30/year International



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The last time you visited the post office, you probably noticed that mailing a letter costs two cents more than it used to cost. Well, the cost of mailing *The Cry* increased even more; our rates recently went up 10.8 cents *per copy!* That translates to more than an additional \$7,000 per year in postage. This, on top of our continually growing mailing list, has caused us to enter into the process of evaluating our budget and brainstorming ways to better target our readership.

The Cry has always been a free publication that is available to whomever wants to receive it. We will continue to gladly make it available free of charge, but we want to encourage you to join in the vision of *The Cry* and give the suggested subscription (it's a tax deductible gift). The current suggested subscription rate is \$12/year. In addition, if you believe in the vision of our journal, we would greatly appreciate any additional gifts toward that end.

In next quarter's issue, we will give you the opportunity to send in a reply if you want to remain on the subscription list for *The Cry*. You may continue to receive a free subscription, but we give the opportunity to pay a subscription donation for 2008 if you are able. Please watch for the winter issue in November and mail in your acceptance of the offer. We will give you several chances to respond, and then prune the list of addresses of those who do not respond.

We will also be working to find new ways to stay connected to people who are interested and supportive of WMF, but who do not want to receive *The Cry*.

So, to summarize, here are a few points to take away with you as you head off to the end of summer vacation, to church softball team, to your neighborhood's block party, back to school, to your last day at the pool, out into the world:

– We want everyone to read *The Cry* and it will always be free of charge to those who want to receive it.

– You'll need to let us know if you want to receive it; we'll let you know when and how to do that in the winter 2007 issue (stay tuned to our website, too).

– If you *can* pay the subscription, please do! It's only \$12/ year.

We pray that this journal would be a blessing to you, and enable you to pray for the poor and for the ministry of WMF. Enjoy this issue on the topic of service. It is a short one, but it may be one of the best ever. ■



DID YOU KNOW?
The first issue of *The Cry* was published in the summer of 1995 and was designed by long-standing WMF board member, Kyle Schroeder.

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cover photo

photo by *Joel Klepac*

Noah Tullay (Sierra Leone staff member and author of "Sharing Home" on page 4) holds the hand of Simeon Klepac (son of Romania staff members Monica and Joel Klepac). This photo was taken during a field visit Noah made to Romania.

lifestyle celebrations

intimacy: we celebrate intimacy with Jesus to be our highest calling and created purpose.

obedience: we celebrate total obedience, which intimacy demands. our obedience is our response and responsibility to the grace of Jesus.

humility: we celebrate humility before God and humanity.

community: we celebrate community with each other because in community, we find the greatest potential for discipleship, service and growth.

service: we celebrate service, which fulfills our fellowship.

simplicity: we celebrate simplicity as our privilege in identification with Jesus and the poor.

submission: we celebrate submission to Christ Jesus and each other as a visible sign of our humility.

brokenness: we celebrate our own brokenness as our responsibility in ministry among the broken.

suffering: we celebrate suffering as a part of a willing sacrifice in serving Jesus among the poor.

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The Cry is an advocacy publication of Word Made Flesh. In addition to serving Jesus among the poor through ministries of compassion and proclamation of the Good News, Word Made Flesh is committed to serving the church as a prophetic voice for the poor. We strive for *The Cry* to be a voice to the church, articulating the cry of the poor for God and the cry of God for the poor.

To request a free quarterly subscription, contact us at 1.800.279.4543 or info@wordmadeflesh.com. Though the subscription is free, we suggest a tax-deductible donation of \$12 per year to help cover our costs (\$30 donations for addresses outside the U.S.).

You may download back issues of *The Cry* at: www.wordmadeflesh.com/learn/the_cry-archive.html.

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All Scripture is quoted from Today's New International Version Bible, unless otherwise stated.

Staff Profiles

STEPHANIE McGUIRE

servant team coordinator



Photo: Nate McGuire

Stephanie is the oldest of three children and grew up in rural Ohio, just outside the small town of Circleville. She was raised in a loving Christian home by parents who have served in ministry for over 30 years and have always encouraged their children to lead lives of character and selflessness. Stephanie remembers giving her heart to Jesus at a young age, and during her teenage years she began to more fully surrender to the love of God.

Following high school, Stephanie attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. She was introduced to Chris and Phileena Heuertz through her friend Drew, the youngest Heuertz brother. She began volunteering at the WMF office in Wilmore, and through this experience, Stephanie came to

understand the importance of the Christian response to poverty and injustice. Stephanie completed a degree in psychology at Asbury in 2003 and moved to Omaha to join WMF USA as Assistant to the Director. During the two years that she served with WMF USA, Stephanie traveled to several WMF fields. In the stories of the children she met, Stephanie encountered God's own heartache over the oppression and suffering of people created in His image.

Following the completion of her contract in 2005, Stephanie participated in a Servant Team in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She was taught invaluable lessons by her friends there, and will return to Freetown this year as Servant Team Coordinator. ■

ESDRIANNE COHEN

street educator



Photo: Jema Pashley

Esdrienne was born in the borough of Tijuca, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She was raised until age 13 by her maternal and paternal grandparents in Rio de Janeiro and Capanema, in the Brazilian state of Pará. They provided for her Christian homes in which the Bible was consistently taught, and she accepted Jesus as her Savior as a young girl.

At age 13, Esdrienne moved to live with her mother, where she was introduced to another side of life and rebelled against her upbringing, involving herself in activities like spiritism (*macumba*) that her grandparents had prohibited. After she had experienced the suffering that accompanied such experimentation and lifestyles, she made a life-changing decision. Hearing a television preacher speak, Esdrienne remembered her past and the teachings of her grandparents, and she asked God for a second chance. Together with her young daughter, Isabella, Esdrienne began a new life. In 2003, she was introduced to *Projeto Vidinha*, a philanthropic institution that assists needy children, and also to her future husband, Alex Araújo.

Alex was and is one of the most dedicated people at *Projeto Vidinha*, and his love for this work inspired

Esdrienne too: after a few months, she became a volunteer at the project. They began a relationship that blossomed, and on June 24, 2006, they were married at their church, *Igreja do Nazareno da Tijuca II*, and joined their two families into one. They have three lovely children: Isabella, Arthur and Júlia.

In 2004, Esdrienne met WMF staff through her service at *Projeto Vidinha*. Their relationship deepened, and in 2006 Esdrienne began helping with the work on the streets. In January 2007, she became the first Brazilian to be a part of WMF Brazil. The work on the streets is, for Esdrienne, "very gratifying. Since I was a child, my family always taught me the lesson that loving one's neighbor is fundamental to fulfilling the will of God. It is because of this that my heart overflows with joy to help people." She is currently the secretary of *Projeto Vidinha* and a street educator on contract with WMF Brazil. ■

ON SERVICE:

Sharing Home

by noah tullay

When I think of the word “service,” it helps me to remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is the perfect example of service: He did not think of His glory, dignity, power and might, but instead chose to dwell with us in this corrupt, unequal and unjust world.

I thank God for His goodness, mercy, favor, love and salvation when I look at my life and how He has blessed it. In 1999, just after the rebels invaded Freetown, my church began a program to minister to the young children in Kroo Bay, one of the poorest areas of Freetown. We called it the Kroo Bay Good News Club, where we taught the kids and gave them snacks. When we started the Saturday Bible Club, I was able to see service as Christ intended. It brings me plenty of joy to think of where God has brought me and the kids in the Good News Club, but it also makes me grieve to see brokenness that I can't fix.

After a few years of working together, the ministry began to slow down. Volunteers stopped coming to help, leaving for different reasons, until, eventually, I was alone. I live in Kroo Bay, and I couldn't bear to leave these kids. But, I realized that there were simply too many kids: I could not control them or help them in any meaningful way. I complained to my pastor, saying that I was alone with over 200 kids without anything to give to them. He replied to me: “Trust God. Just go and encourage them about His love.”

I think this is where we miss it when we want to serve God. We depend on our strength, our ability and the people around us instead of God. I know we need people around us to make the work easier, but when they leave, we should not leave. Instead, we need to trust God for what He has put in our heart. God forced me to



Mohamed, one of the boys under Noah's care, enjoys some waves.

rely on Him by taking away all of the support, comfort and strength I thought I had.

So, realizing that I had no strength of my own to help the kids, I began to pray for God to change the lives of the children in the Good News Club. I prayed that God would meet the kids' needs – those who needed to go to school, receive nutritious food, and get medical care for their cuts, infections and illnesses. God answered my prayer by sending the first missionaries from Word Made Flesh. They started helping every Saturday. In faith, I stayed in Kroo Bay, and God placed people here to continue the work He had started.

After a little while, we received a gift of money to help Kroo Bay. At that point, I realized that it was a gift from God, and we decided to use the money to help pay for food for the kids,

and also to send some of them to school. I knew that these kids need more than someone paying their way through school; they need someone to mentor them, to be their guide and support. I saw kids like Remie, a child who lived on the street without a family to care for him. Remie needed more than just schooling – he needed a mentor and a guide.

Again, I felt the command to serve. I knew in my heart that the best way to mentor these kids was to open up my home for them. It was

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Photo: Cami Sigler

Noah Tullay is the Sierra Leone Field Advocate and is participating in the first-ever Servant Team comprised entirely of Sierra Leoneans. Noah has welcomed three young boys into his home, demonstrating deep faith, patience and compassion. Noah enjoys traveling, computers, reading, talking theology and watching his favorite soccer team – Bolton.

ON SERVICE:

Mysterious Joy

by rachel simons

His name is Vincent, but everyone calls him Vinny. He's a clown at heart, and whenever he has an audience, he will gladly stand on his head, do a cartwheel or juggle a few rocks with an occasional toss under his left leg. Underneath the jester's act is a young man who, at 18, is beginning to think seriously about the future. He is often overcome with depression and frequently expresses his desire to just die.

Infected with HIV in a hospital at the age of 2, Vinny was abandoned by his parents and spent his earliest years under hospital care. At 6, he ran away, jumped on a train and ended up on the other side of Romania, where he began his life on the streets, begging and surviving on handouts. He spent a short time in a children's home, but the pull of drugs and the freedom of street life drew him back to where I met him three years ago – begging at a stoplight with the other boys in his gang.

Even though Vinny believes he would be better off dead, something in him still longs for love and he prays often for God to send him parents. He hungers to be loved, and yet has no idea where to find the love he so desires.

I know another boy. His name is Andrew. At first glance you'd say he's about 6 or 7, but he's actually 12 years old. Malnutrition, neglect and HIV have left his body small and underdeveloped. We used to affectionately call him "mosquito" because that's what he looked like – tiny, thin bones and a long face. But as he's grown older, he's grown out of his silly nickname and we know him simply as Andy. The broad smile that crosses his face when you meet him tells you this guy is a gem.

He was abandoned in a hospital during the earliest years of his life after contracting HIV through a reused needle. One of the worst nightmares of Ceausescu's regime in Romania



One of the young men of the streets in Galati, Romania, who is a part of the "La Casa Vale" (Valley House) community center.

is this: Over 9,000 children were infected with HIV in the 1980s and '90s from reused needles and blood transfusions in hospitals where no precautions were taken against spreading the AIDS virus.

The hospital created a ward for children such as Andrew, and literally locked them in behind a fence, opened only for their daily ration of food. Treated like animals, they began to behave as such, until they were rescued by a group of Christians who were moved to compassionate action on behalf of these outcast children. The children were taken to an apartment in the city, began taking anti-viral drugs and were offered care that has helped them develop normally. Eventually, all but a few were placed in foster families.

Sometimes I ask myself, "Why do I choose to live a life of service among those who suffer so much? What keeps me coming back to the stoplight where children beg and use drugs? Why do I persist in working with "hopeless"

street kids or opening my arms to those afflicted with a terminal disease? Society tells me I'm wasting my time, and sometimes I am tempted to believe it's true.

Walking alongside youth who are trying to break free from street life can be depressing – one step forward then two steps back. Time and time again I've seen youth return to drugs and street life after breaking free for a period of weeks or even months.

Even as I ask myself these questions, others ask me if I find my work fulfilling – a question

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Photo: Audra McAvaddy

Rachel Simons enjoys playing guitar and leads the community and local church in times of corporate worship. She is an avid knitter and also enjoys caring for the flower garden at "Casa La Vale" in Galati. Rachel currently serves in a Field Staff position, mentoring adolescent girls at the community center and coordinating the outreach among street youth in Galati.

ON SERVICE:

The Great Pursuit

by sarah lance

I am often weary in Kolkata of the daily problems that seem to burden the ladies with whom we share life. I am weary because they are weary, because their problems are my problems. And they are my problems because God has asked and I have chosen to walk with the women down this hard road to freedom. We walk the road of exodus together, and when they stumble, they often look around to see who is going to pick them up and dust them off. They want to see if we are still there, still behind them, pressing them forward and cheering with them each step.

Let me start with today. Today my friend Chiana decided that she was going to quit Sari Bari. She did not call me. She called our production assistant and told him to tell me. She did it this way because she knew I would not let her go easily. But when I received the call, I was stunned, and the first thought that occurred to me was to let her go. I thought, "She knows what freedom tastes like. It is her choice to throw it away." I let my heart harden.

But my heart did not stay hard very long. Just minutes later, my heart broke because I love Chiana. And I had a vision of what God has done for me and of what He wants to do for Chiana through me.

The God I serve has never stopped pursuing me. No matter how many times I threaten to quit, how many times I reject Him, how many times I walk away, He has been right there behind me, pursuing me, searching for me, finding me and throwing a party in my honor. And this, my friends, is a true service. We have been given the gift of a God who often serves us best in His loving pursuit.

I know this story about some sheep – I am sure you have heard it. You know, the one where the



These are the celebratory, victorious, beloved, beautiful women of Sari Bari. The illustration was created to depict the women's beauty, while protecting their identities.

shepherd has 100 sheep, one gets lost, and he leaves the 99 to go after the one that was lost. And then there is the one about the coin, one little lost treasure among many, and the woman who scours her house until she finds it (see Luke 15). These are God's stories, His love letters to His people, His stories of pursuit – our pursuit. So what I know for sure is that there is nothing in the kingdom of God that, if lost, cannot be found if there is simply someone around willing to pursue that lost sheep, that lost coin or maybe that lost person right in front of us.

This pursuit is our act of love, our act of service as a community in serving among women in Kolkata's red-light districts. It is one of the amazing gifts that we can give the ladies that not one person in their lives has ever given them. We pursue them. In fact, that is what we do in Kolkata: We pursue the lost treasures in the

darkness of the sex districts. We start the pursuit in the lanes of the red-light district and continue it over tea in their rooms. We pursue the women and girls until they have a new job, a new life, and even then we still pursue and press them forward into freedom. We pursue them straight into the arms of Jesus. We serve them best by pursuing them, by never failing to take up the rear and get their back, by calling them lovely in an unlovely place, by not letting them quit,

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Photo: Kristin Keen

Sarah Lance is the Kolkata Field Director and manages Sari Bari, a blanket-making business that provides employment opportunities for women who want to escape the sex trade. Some of her Kolkata friends' favorite things about Sarah are that she can't resist beauty, that she dreams big for those she loves, that she loves to celebrate and that she loves Rocky Balboa. The list goes on!

ON SERVICE:

Service is Freedom

by ben miller

One of my favorite places to meet with our street friends is down by the water at Praça 15. It is named for the day when Princess Isabella proclaimed freedom for the slaves of Brazil. Now it is a refuge for many who have no other place to go. Out of view of the crowds and hidden behind the parked cars of the city's lawyers and judges is the stretch of sidewalk that is the "summer home" of some of our friends.

There is always a cool breeze blowing in over the water. Our friends fish from the stone docks, dive into the water and rest – a peace is there that isn't usually found on the streets. Last week I was perched on the edge with my legs dangling over the water, talking to Marcos as he asked over and over again, "Have you brought it?" As I nodded yes with a smile on my lips, a grin lit up his eyes and he truly looked like the 11-year-old boy he is. This is my service.

Service is a hard word for me. I love the ideal of service. I want to serve Jesus. I want to serve the poor. I want to be of service. But what is the best way to do that? How can I be the servant who is found faithful?

When answering questions about what I do, I am forced to answer, "It's all about relationships." Word Made Flesh is a relational ministry. And while I love that about my work and my life, it is a slow process. It's not the most "efficient" way to go about things. It takes time to share a life with someone, to build trust, to be a friend, to laugh and cry and dance with the poor and rejected of the world.

But for a people group who have spent their entire lives hearing from society how worthless they are, the simple fact that those in my community and I are willing to sit down and talk, laugh, listen and pray with them means the world. It's not just a self-esteem thing. It



Praça 15 is a popular hang-out for WMF and friends.

Photo: Jenna Pashley

is a spiritual renovation – we are involved in restoring the identity of these beloved children of God – the princes and princesses of the Kingdom (Psalm 113:7-8). This is my service.

In the Lord's Kingdom, service is freedom. This service in love has no bounds. "Love each other," we are commanded. We are not told how to love each other. We are given the freedom to live creative lives of love and service.

We can learn to become artists – making each act of service and love a masterpiece. As we live, our hearts turn into museums where these different masterpieces can hang in all their beauty. And like all masterpieces, they are each unique – different works of art for different people in their different stages of life.

Last week, Marcos could barely sit still as we pulled from a bag his birthday cake and sang "Happy Birthday" to him. He wouldn't meet

our eyes as the song and applause finished – embarrassed by attention and loving it at the same time. Something as simple as celebrating a birthday on the streets can be my act of service. It is bringing cake, a prayer, a hug and love – it is singing our thanks for the life of Marcos, and thanking God with him for 11 years of life. It is praying for his reconciliation with his family and working to improve his future. It is supporting and encouraging him. Today, this is service. This is love. "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). ■

Marcos' name has been changed to protect his privacy.



Photo: Rich Nichols

Ben Miller, the Servant Team Coordinator for the Brazil community, enjoys singing, playing his guitar, and long walks on the beach (in search of surfing spots). He can hold his breath for over 2.5 minutes.

Country Updates

OMAHA, NE U.S.A.

MAY

- Daphne Eck (Director of Advocacy) shares at Monte Vista Chapel's missions conference in Turlock, CA.
- Chris and Phileena Heuertz (Executive Director and Director of Community Care) travel to Spain for six weeks to walk the Camino de Santiago. This pilgrimage is the precursor to the sabbatical they will take in the fall.
- Amanda Timm (Coordinator of Community Care) graduates from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a bachelor's degree in Spanish.
- May 12, Amanda Timm marries Chad Knihal in Omaha, NE. *Pictured above.*



Chad and Amanda Knihal

JUNE

- Many WMF staff members serving abroad return to the U.S. to visit family, supporters and churches before the WMF USA staff retreat in July.
- June 19, Seal Beach Church hosts the "Broken – Beautiful" art project in Seal Beach, CA. On display are pictures taken by the WMF Sierra Leone Lighthouse youth of what they find to be beautiful and broken in their community. The aim is to educate people about Sierra Leone and WMF's ministry there and to raise support. *See photos on page 15.*
- Marcia Ghali moves to Omaha to serve as Short Term Programs Coordinator and Beggars Society Coordinator.
- After serving faithfully for two years as Short Term Programs Coordinator, Jara Sturdivant transitions into the role of U.S. Advocacy Coordinator.
- Sarah Kim ends her service with WMF. She was an incredible blessing and will be greatly missed.

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

MAY

- In the beginning of May, WMF staff go on a spiritual retreat with four other missionary friends. The time with God and each other is wonderful, and all return to the city rejuvenated.
- WMF staff see two young men from the streets enter rehabilitation programs. This is such an answer to prayer! Please pray for them as they trust God to help them change their lives.

JUNE

- A second meeting is held with the potential board of directors of WMF Brazil, seeking to move forward with the vision to become a Brazilian institution.
- *Projeto Vidinha* hosts a tea party fund-raiser in early June. WMF staff participate in the programming and planning, helping to make the event a success!

EL ALTO, BOLIVIA

MAY

- A friend of WMF Bolivia is murdered in the brothels by an unknown perpetrator.
- *La Casa de Esperanza* celebrates Mother's Day with a party for about 100 women and their children.

JUNE

- Negotiations continue with the owner of the building which has hosted *La Casa de Esperanza* for three and a half years. WMF Bolivia hopes to raise \$160,000 to buy it by December 2007.
- The spring Servant Team is completed and team members return home.

LIMA, PERU

MAY

- After the sale of the property that was being considered for purchase, and thanks to a local realtor offering her services for free, the community begins to actually visit new property leads. Please pray that God would guide this effort.
- The WMF Peru Peruvian staff complete an intensive, 32-hour course at the Evangelical Seminary of Lima entitled, "Executing service projects that are sensitive, transformational and contextualized."
- The community celebrates Mother's Day with 13 young girls and their children, decorating cookies, taking pictures and enjoying each other's company.
- WMF Peru is registered with the Ministry of Labor to extend legal contracts to Peruvian workers. We are thankful for this important administrative development.

JUNE

- WMF Peru participates in a conference sponsored by GO International about the local church and ministry to children at risk. There are 25 participants, including church leaders from Peru and seven other Latin American countries.
- The community receives a Discovery Team from the home church of David Smith, WMF Peru staff.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

MAY

- Walter Forcatto begins an eight-week course on biblical exegesis at *Iglesia Evangelica Bautista de Constitucion*, the church the Forcattos attend.
- A staff member from *Iglesia Evangelica Bautista de Constitucion* begins volunteering with WMF.
- With tickets donated by a friend, Walter and five youth of the streets attend a professional soccer game.
- WMF and *Iglesia Evangelica Bautista de Constitucion* help a young couple who have left a life on the street to build a small home.

JUNE

- Cora Forcatto receives permanent Argentine residency.

GALATI, ROMANIA

MAY

- May 1, schoolchildren and staff enjoy a day in the forest, playing soccer, eating grilled chicken and relaxing.
- Fani Ursachescu and Lenuta Chronic attend a counseling training course for local evangelical churches.
- Dr. Ron Wright, a psychology professor from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College, teaches the staff about listening, attachment disorders and the need for lament.
- David Chronic and Josh and Robin Fowler make a visa run to Moldova and explore future ministry opportunities there.

JUNE

- The Worldwide Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk is celebrated at the community center with children and members of local churches. Through worship, drama and a poverty banquet, the plight of children around the world is remembered and lifted up to the Father.
- Fani Ursachescu goes to Bosnia to work at an English day camp for two weeks, working with children and visiting their families.
- Vali Archip participates on a panel at the International Conference for Romanian Studies in Constanta. The topic is on how children of the streets overcome barriers in order to access social services.

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

MAY

- Faye Yu and Cami Sigler host an evening in their home for female missionaries who serve in Freetown to catch up and pray for one another.
- David and Ibrahim, Lighthouse youth, disappear for two weeks, but come back and apologize for their disappearance and behavior.
- Alimamy, one of the tailor apprentices at Lighthouse, begins to learn how to type on the computer. He is doing very well.
- Remie, one of the boys who lives with Noah Tullay, runs away for a week. He has done this numerous times. Please pray for wisdom for WMF staff in this situation.
- The tailoring apprentices in Lighthouse learn how to "plant," which is a method of making designs on clothes, like embroidering.

JUNE

- The local Sierra Leonean Servant Team concludes six months of working with WMF.
- Lighthouse completes its weekly Bible study series on the nine WMF Lifestyle Celebrations.

Photo, right:
In May, several of the children from the Chennai Home of Happiness, along with the staff, took a trip to a beach resort outside of the city during their school vacation.



Photo: Angeline Samuel

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

MAY

- May 19, WMF Nepal staff member Jamuna Rai delivers a healthy baby girl, Acsah. *Pictured right.*
- All eight remaining men living in *Kripaa Sadan* successfully complete their treatment program.
- Anju, 16-year-old niece of Gautam Rai, joins the *Karuna Ghar* family.
- WMF staff members take part in a gathering for the Global Day of Prayer.



Photo: Gautam Rai

Acsah Rai

KOLKATA, INDIA

MAY

- The Sari Bari trainees start the second half of their training and are working full-time.
- Kolkata staff member Gita makes a public statement about her faith and is baptized at Emmanuel Ministries. At a luncheon in her honor at Sari Bari, she is able to tell the Sari Bari ladies her testimony and why she chose to be baptized. It is a moving time for all.
- The women at Sari Bari throw Sarah Lance a surprise party for her birthday! It is complete with a small cake fight, some crazy dancing and some happy tears of love.
- WMF Kolkata's friend "P" and her 2-year-old daughter find out they are infected with HIV. This is the first time the field has encountered HIV among their friends in the red-light area. Please pray for this family.

JUNE

- The Servant Team takes the women of Sari Bari out for an evening of bowling shortly before departing for the U.S.
- U.S. board member Sarah Baldwin visits the field with her family and a team from George Fox University. She is a blessing and an encouragement to the staff.

CHENNAI, INDIA

MAY

- Twelve children from the Home of Happiness visit their families during their vacation. The remaining 22 children travel to the hills 300 miles from Chennai where they enjoy good food, boating, hiking and wonderful cool weather.
- Silas West (South Asia Regional Coordinator) visits Chennai for the board meeting.
- The entire Home of Happiness takes a special getaway to a nearby retreat center. The focus is on cherishing the Word of God, with all activities based on this theme.
- May 16, three staff members at the Home of Happiness are baptized. They have embraced faith in Christ and requested to be baptized despite disapproval from their families. Please pray for growth in the new life they have begun with the Lord.

JUNE

- The Kolkata Servant Team and Bengali staff members travel to South India to visit the WMF children's homes in Chennai and another children's home in Bangalore.
- A new academic year begins. Three 11th graders will move to a school with a better educational and spiritual environment. The eldest child enters her final year of schooling – 12th grade – which is an important year because these grades will determine her future course.
- Praise God! Yashodha, Sumitha and Solai pass their 10th grade public exams. They begin to apply for vocational courses that will put them on a track toward self-sufficiency. Please pray for God's will to be done in their lives.

ON SERVICE:

The Service of Administration

by brent anderson

The root word of administration is ministry. To that end, L. Gregory Jones and Kevin Armstrong, in their book *Resurrecting Excellence*, write, “The question is not whether pastors will provide administrative leadership – it is whether it will be done well or poorly.”¹ This is true not only for pastors but for any leader. I have seen that Christians tend to value the more visible gifts like preaching or teaching, defining them as ministry, and forget the value of administration.

It’s easy to see preaching as something sacred but administration as somehow secular. I think it illustrates the false dichotomy with which many Christians see the world: The spirit is eternal and good, but the body is temporal and bad. And this colors our view of service so that we don’t properly see the eternal significance of making photocopies, answering a phone call or typing a report.

It’s easy to see preaching as something sacred but administration as somehow secular.

As the Director of Administration for Word Made Flesh, I want to explore service through the lens of administration in a non-profit organization. Let me preface this by saying that we have not fully succeeded in administrative service to the degree that we desire. However, we strive for continual improvement in serving our community, the poor and our many supporters.

As Charles Beirne writes in his book *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits*, two problems for any administrator are: 1) Does the person filling the role have to be devoid of personality and

isolated from co-workers in order to objectively adjudicate policy, or can they properly be part of the community? 2) Can administrators admit error and ask for forgiveness, and will they be forgiven?

Beirne’s questions have provided a useful tool for shaping our paradigm of administrative service. In WMF, each field has a designated administrator. Our administrators are part of each community and not separate from other community members. In addition, the personality and goals of these administrators influence general policy. We believe that administrators who are part of the community institute better policies but also need forgiveness when they make a mistake.

While our administrators are part of each community, administration can never be what drives the organization. By its very function, administration has to serve the organization. As Charles Beirne writes,

“The community missions the administrator to help clarify its goals and objectives, remember its history and charism ... and serve as a catalyst who encourages all members to give the institution continuous life.”²

The administrator must encourage; serve; add value; enhance; manage logistics; be efficient, transparent, accountable and flexible; and help staff to work better. In WMF, I want administration to function like a business but feel like a family. And if we can truly feel like a family, that should have implications for our witness, both to those within and outside the community. Why is it that people do not look at Christian communities (for the most part), and clamor to be a part of that community? Is it because there isn’t a visible, active, service-oriented love for

one another? In other words, why do we allow ourselves to serve each other so poorly?

When Christians have loved each other well in history (read in Acts about the serving of the widows and orphans), this has embodied the Kingdom and brought many to Christ. Service, even (seemingly) everyday administrative tasks, can be our hands and feet to this broken world. Typing a report can be a witness to the world. Doing outstanding work can demonstrate that there is something that is motivating us to excellence beyond either duty or professional advancement. If we, as created beings, are to emulate God, the Creator, we should create good things. God said His creation was good and we can see it is good. For an administrator, this creation looks like service. This “good” service points to the Creator.

Let us serve one another excellently. ■

ENDNOTES

¹ L. Gregory Jones and Kevin Armstrong, *Resurrecting Excellence: Shaping Faithful Christian Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2006), p. 107.

² Charles Beirne, *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 18, no. 2 (St. Louis: American Assistency Seminar on Jesuit Spirituality, March 1986), p. 2.

Editor’s Note: *Brent is always looking for good people to join him in administration. In fact, there is currently a position open! If you’re interested, please contact him at: brent.anderson@wordmadeflesh.com*



Photo: Jara Sturdivant

Brent Anderson is the International Associate Director of Administration in Omaha, NE. He sometimes wears headphones at the office to focus, drowning out office noise with classical music, but many times he’s just jamming to Kelly Clarkson ... or Queen.

ON SERVICE:

Loaves and Fish

by rachel langley

“**T**he Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ ... Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ‘Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?’ Jesus said, ‘Have the people sit down’” (John 6:4-5, 8-10).

For the last four years, I have served as the Field Administrator in Peru. In this role, I have monitored reimbursements and vacation policies. I have updated contingency plans and legal documents. I have developed and administered the budget for the entire ministry. In my mind, missionary service has always been characterized as being on the front lines, getting messy, being bold and daring for the Kingdom doing the seemingly heroic acts of being Christ’s hands and feet. But, in reality for me, being the hands and feet has looked more like crunching numbers and working at the computer than physically standing beside the youth I love.

If I am honest, I must admit that it has been a struggle many times, a labor of love, to serve in a role that keeps me more in contact with a machine than with the warm hand of a friend. I have come to know through my struggles that my labors in administration are birthed in love and commitment to the youth. For me, this has been an even more difficult declaration of love, yet such a rewarding one. The recognition my pride begged for was taken away, and I began to see service as an act of worship, a living sacrifice for my Lord above all others. Living among the youth here, it is easy to let my pride grow undeservedly when they are thankful for the money or opportunity that comes their



Anna Monteviller, WMF Peru Programs Director, spends a fair share of her time behind a computer.

way through relationship with our community. It is also easy to doubt myself when they lash out angrily because I don’t think it best to give them what they want. I have proudly struggled with feeling like a “good” servant when the youth call me their best friend, and feeling like a failed servant when they reject me. That misperception cheapens an act of worship into something that feeds my self-importance.

We are called believers in Christ, not doers in Christ. We are called to service because our faith leads us there – our pride should not. We are asked to give ourselves as living sacrifices, and to offer our gifts for His glory. I am organized, a bit of a neat freak. I love to see the numbers agree with the balances. God gave me gifts of administration. When I faithfully serve as Field Administrator, I faithfully serve my Lord. I offer what I have for His glory, knowing that He will do with my service much more than I ever expected. It’s my two fish and five loaves. I wonder, “What is this offering

when the needs are so many?” And He says to sit down and know His provision. When we offer what we uniquely have, as insignificant as it may seem to those around us, and even to ourselves, God takes it, He gives thanks for it, and He uses it to abundantly bless His people.

Even though I spend more time in front of a machine than holding the hands of my friends from the street, God has miraculously grown and strengthened my relationships with them. He has given me boldness. He has opened opportunities to share in new ways and has

(continued on page 14)



Photo: Brian Langley

Rachel Langley and her husband of 11 years, Brian, are the Peru Field Directors. They have two beautiful daughters, Isabel (7) and Natalia (1). The Langley family serves among at-risk young adults and children in Lima.

A REFLECTION:

A Spirituality of Gladness, Joy and Celebration

by walter forcatto

A dear friend, despite her poverty, does all she possibly can to give three children an upbringing full of dignity and hope.

A group of friends dances for nearly five hours at an engagement party.

WMF staff enjoy a fabulous dinner together with great food and wine during the last night of the 2004 Staff Retreat in San Diego.

Spontaneous singing and dancing break out among excluded youth when they hear their favorite songs on the radio.

A young couple living on the streets uses part of the very little money they have to cook dinner and share it with my wife and me.

A blue dragonfly flies over open sewers leading out of a slum community.

Excluded and forgotten Brazilian kids welcome strangers and share their smiles as they play with my daughter Cora.

These are lessons I'm learning, showing me how important it is for us to remain open to gladness, joy and celebration, especially in our solidarity with the poor and within contexts of injustice, oppression and exclusion. Certainly, lament is important and has its proper place in our Christian spirituality, especially considering that, as Pastor Ray Mayhew says, "the Psalms of lament are given to us by God to allow us to legitimate our bewilderment and disappointment with God [... highlighting the] theological conflict between our present experience of suffering and God's character and promises."¹ We are free to express our disappointment, outrage and pain about reality and concerning God Himself.



Photo: Adriana Forcatto

Cora Forcatto gets a rare opportunity to run freely with a friend in the countryside outside of Buenos Aires. Of the day, Cora's mom, Adriana, said, "She spent all day climbing trees, rolling down hills and playing tag. She walked around with the biggest smile. Mine was bigger."

Mayhew continues,

"Friendship with God means that even though we know He will never let us down, we sometimes feel He has let us down, and – amazingly! – He encourages us to tell Him so and lament our grief and loss."²

When it's time for grief and lament, we should not miss or neglect the opportunity to express them. But we should also not miss or neglect opportunities in life to deliberately and actively embrace gladness, joy and celebration.

Yet oftentimes (and I am guilty of this) we tend to, either consciously or unconsciously, focus on the fragments – the incompleteness – and not necessarily the wholeness and beauty that we are, that we are a part of, that we contribute to and that surrounds us. Whole spirituality is taking responsibility, courage and initiative to

see and celebrate the good, constructive and positive – the creative and life-giving work of the Spirit who moves freely in our world. It is consciously deciding to value what we have and can give instead of what we are lacking and what we can't give; to recognize the inherent worth in the decision of the will to live; to value our own beauty and that of others; to see the small and daily miracles we easily overlook; to feel the simple solidarity and

(continued on next page)



Photo: Adriana Forcatto

Walter Forcatto, his wife, Adriana, and two children, Cora and Amani, live in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They are the South America Regional Coordinators. While most everyone who knows him knows of Walter's love of the guitar, many may not know that his first (though brief) musical experimentation was with the accordion.

treasure of being with others and sharing life's joys and celebrations.

We have hope that God is going to make everything new, that His Kingdom will be completely established when Jesus comes again, even as there are signs of it today. Certainly there is so much in our lives and world that can take our joy away or keep us from wanting to celebrate. Therefore, this is not a naïve call to an empty happiness we experience through the distractions of consumerism, endless entertainment and activity. After all, it's not as if we can honestly ignore the suffering of millions of our brothers and sisters. I also understand that I'm writing these words with my laptop and in my apartment and from a certain "privileged" perspective. I accept this tension and at times feel the contradiction.

Nevertheless, I've witnessed and experienced this will to live, this ability to appreciate life and experience innate joy and spontaneous gladness despite great suffering and poverty. Even the ability to help us recall simple joys that we have perhaps forgotten in our adult world is something to consider regaining. This is how my daughter Cora teaches me: her joy at seeing the moon; stopping to pick up sticks, leaves or flowers while we are walking (though it drives me crazy at times – and that's exactly my point!); her capacity for gladness and play just hours after having surgery.

We speak frequently of how the poor have become our mentors and teachers. Yet I think we still have much to learn from them regarding gladness and celebration of life. Jon Sobrino writes,

"What we call primordial saintliness is the will to live and to survive amid great suffering, the decision and effort that it requires, the unlimited creativity, the strength, the constancy, defying innumerable problems and obstacles. Even in the midst of catastrophe and daily hardship, the poor and the victims – especially the women and their children – put into practice and fulfill with distinction God's call to live, and to give life to others."³

Sobrino is saying that, despite enormous odds and tragedy, there is a will to live and

to give life, to not take this life for granted, to appreciate life despite exclusion and severe hardships. I think of, for example, the way many of the youth and kids we work with love music and are always ready to dance and sing when they hear their favorite song. These are simple and beautiful examples of a desire to enjoy life and celebrate despite the circumstances of life.

We were created for life, to give life and enjoy the presence of our Creator because our God is a God of life, not death (Genesis 1:26-28). In Jesus we see a God who is not foreign to celebrating, enjoying meals, opening Himself up to others, dialoguing, weeping, rejoicing – in summary, living and drinking in life in all its dimensions. In fact, Jesus loved the table fellowship so much, and all that it implies emotionally, socially and spiritually, that He was accused of being a glutton and drunkard (Luke 7:34)! Our intimacy with Jesus should have implications for our daily walk with Him. Our spirituality, or the spirit by which we live, should reflect our desire to follow our Master, to understand and make the same choices as the man from Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth (1 John 2:6).

"I have come so that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). I think this verse has usually been interpreted as referring solely to the fullness of life we experience after death. However, I believe it's more inclusive than that. The verses preceding Jesus' statement of abundant life tell of a present situation: the sheep hearing the shepherd's voice and following Him while they are alive! Jesus came announcing the Kingdom of God's eruption into history and inviting humanity to participate in it. Jesus laid down His life for us so that we could live like Him on earth and experience and celebrate the fruits of life now, as well as enjoy the bliss of being in God's presence for all eternity.

The Scriptures also teach us that one of the defining characteristics of the Kingdom of God is joy (Romans 14:17). God's Kingdom is not defined by an oppressive religious moral code but by living an unfathomable relationship with the Triune God, the Creator of the cosmos (Psalm 100). Think of the jubilant celebration hosted by a father inspired by the return of the

lost son. The table fellowship, the sacrament of the Eucharist and the indescribable wedding party after Christ returns are invitations to celebrate a new orientation to life both now and in the future (Revelation 19:7-9). And note that those who are at this wedding supper are those who have lived through the great tribulations. Enjoying the presence and intimacy with Jesus through our brothers and sisters, taking time to celebrate with food, drink, music, dancing – all these, and much more, are beautiful and basic expressions of what it means to take part in the life of humanity, especially in Latin America. Henri Nouwen calls this "being bread and wine to each other"⁴ – in other words, taking the splendid opportunity of being the presence of Jesus to each other and the world.

In *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran, the Lebanese poet and philosopher, writes,

"The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain. Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?"⁵

If this is true, I believe it suggests something important for us who minister among friends who experience terrible injustice, suffering and sorrow that reaches into our lives as well. Our capacity for joy and gladness and to celebrate life should match our experience of suffering. Jesus says something similar: "Your pain will turn into joy" (John 16:20). Because we trust in a God who is Emmanuel, who walks with us and who lived and suffered life and drank it to the last dregs, we can therefore say along with the psalmist, "Weeping may last for the night/But a shout of joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). ■

ENDNOTES

¹ Ray Mayhew, qtd. in Brent Anderson, "Faith and Suffering," *The Cry: The Advocacy Journal of Word Made Flesh* vol. 12, no. 2 (Summer 2006), p. 18. See also Ray Mayhew, "The Lament," *The Deep End*, <http://www.raymayhewonline.com>.

² Ibid.

³ See Jon Sobrino, *Where Is God?* (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2004), pp. 73-74, 93-94.

⁴ Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997), October 1.

⁵ Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1923), p. 29.

LOAVES AND FISH

(continued from page 11)

provided sweet times to sit and hold a hand or offer a hug. I don't know how, but He takes my two fish and five loaves, and He gives thanks for what I offer, and He causes it to be more, to mean more, to bless more than I ever could have anticipated. Our service is for His glory. May we worship Him with gladness as teachers, church treasurers, street educators or administrators. ■

Author's Note: This article is dedicated to the heroes of the administrative staff of WMF in Omaha – An, Brent, Cesia, Emily and Jose. They send out our letters. They receive, keep track of, and inform us of our support, legal documents and policies. Their hard work was vital in our field's approval to receive a large donation that will bring to life our dream of owning a ministry center. They faithfully and excellently serve all the communities of WMF around the world, and make it possible for us to live and serve God's beloved. Thanks for your fish and loaves. God is blessing the world through your service!

MYSTERIOUS JOY

(continued from page 5)

that is hard to answer with a simple yes or no. Certainly, service among the poorest of the poor should not be romanticized. Getting involved in the lives of children with serious physical, emotional and psychological problems is exhausting, painful and sometimes completely overwhelming. But there is also a mysterious joy in such ministry that elicits the question, "Is living a life of service among the poor fulfilling?"

Henri Nouwen touches on this spiritual truth in the book *Compassion*, when he states, "Service is an expression of the search for God and not just of the desire to bring about individual or social change ... As long as the help we offer to others is motivated primarily by the changes we may accomplish, our service cannot last long."¹

I find that I am quickly disappointed if, through serving the needs of others, I search for personal fulfillment. I must deal with many disappointments, face the grief of death and have very few visible results to measure.

Yet I have come to find that working among the poor is fulfilling, not because I enjoy sharing Vinny's and Andy's pain, but because I am drawn closer to Christ as my life is poured out on their behalf.

This life of service among those in need also brings me joy because, through the act of giving up my life, I am finding life. Through giving away, I receive in return. There is a mutual exchange each day because the children's lives are changing me just as much as my life is influencing theirs.

I know another child who helps me put the question of being fulfilled into perspective. It was the first time I met children infected with AIDS, and I had a lot of concerns. Could I play with them? What if they sneezed on me? I was a little nervous.

David Chronic (WMF staff) met me after church and together we walked to our friend Anca's home where the children were spending the afternoon. Six little ones greeted us at the door and ushered us inside. We left our shoes in the hall, and I timidly took a seat on the armchair. There was a lot of chatting, most of which I couldn't understand, but I knew enough Romanian to ask, "What's your name?"

During a sing-along with Anca playing guitar, 9-year-old Ana climbed into my lap and started playing with my hair. Her purple, heart-shaped sunglasses and radiant smile remain fresh in my memory. By the end of the afternoon, my

sense of fear had vanished and I was reluctant to leave.

Three years after meeting little Ana, I returned with some Servant Team members to visit her and the other children who were still receiving care in the apartment created for them. Now 12 years old but with the same bright smile, Ana insisted that I ask the new visitors, "Do you know Jesus? I mean, does He live in your heart?"

Through the innocent question of this little girl, my life is transformed. She teaches me not to focus on the pain, but to fix my eyes on Jesus. He is the reason I choose to give my life away in service among the poor, and I am sure that I will never regret it. ■

In November 2006, Vincent chose to give up drugs and street life and found a place of belonging in a group home for young adults who are HIV positive. He currently works as a tailor, enjoys repairing bicycles and hopes to have an apartment of his own someday. Praise God for this miracle of hope in Vincent's life, and continue to pray that God will draw him close and heal him."

The children's names have been changed to protect their privacy.

ENDNOTES

¹ Henri Nouwen, *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life* (Doubleday: New York, 1982), p. 31.

Christmas cards available now!

Each year, the Word Made Flesh Peru staff offers a unique opportunity for you to partner with them through purchasing original artwork Christmas cards.

Select youth who are struggling to leave street life have worked at every stage of the campaign, from the production of recycled paper, to creating and reproducing the designs and packaging. With various designs and hand drawn artwork by the youth among WMF Peru ministers, these cards come in packs of six.

Pack of six cards and envelopes

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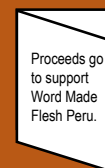
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Checks can be sent, and made payable, to (with an attached note stating how many packs of six you want): Word Made Flesh, P.O. Box 70, Omaha, NE, 68101.

Be sure to include the quantity of packs of six you would like and \$5 for shipping and handling. Yes, \$5 shipping for orders both large and small!

The purchase of these Christmas cards supports the ministries of Word Made Flesh Peru: community development of volunteers, street outreach, day-center programming and family network care.

Visit our website at www.wordmadeflesh.com for ordering information.



Broken – Beautiful

The “Broken – Beautiful” photo project involved youth of the Lighthouse program in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and youth of Grace Community Church of Seal Beach, California junior and senior high school groups. Both groups were given disposable cameras to take pictures that explored the concepts of beauty and brokenness in their homes and in the city around them.

Forty-six pictures from Seal Beach and Freetown students were paired and displayed in an exhibit at Grace Community Church. The photos on this page were taken by the Sierra Leonean youth. See www.GreenArtHouse.com for more photos.



photo by: foday



photo by: ibrahim



photo by: alimamy



photo by: joseph m



photo by: hassan

SHARING HOME (continued from page 4)

difficult to take them in; I needed to discipline parts of myself to be ready to have these children come into my home. I asked Cami (WMF Sierra Leone Field Director) if I could bring Remie into my home. She answered, “You know you are in school. You are not alone in your house. You have to ask your roommate. We are here to help, but these are my concerns.”

So, I asked my friend if we could bring Remie into our house, and he agreed, but with other concerns: Was I too young to care for him? Did I have enough time to care for him? What about my friends and social life? There were lots of questions, lots of challenges and comforts that I had to choose to give up.

These were things that I needed in my life, but I could not imagine seeing my boys going from house to house begging for food, unable to go to school and living with no future.

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it” (Matthew 16:24-25).

This verse means nothing to me if I consider only things about myself and not the interests of the kids God has put around me. And the Bible says true religion is to take care of the little and the needy, and to keep myself unspoiled from the world. ■

THE GREAT PURSUIT (continued from page 6)

by seeking them out when they are lost and throwing a party when they are found. This is our service.

So today, I changed my plans. I allowed to myself to be diverted so I could pursue the one that was lost. Thankfully I can share that Chiana is found and is back on that freedom road. But the way is long, and not many can walk it without someone to press them on. I think my life changed today because I realized that I do not ever want there to be a day when I stop pursuing these women, when I stop running to meet them when they return, when I stop wanting to have a party to celebrate their life. Today, I felt just a touch of the heart of God for His people, a touch of His heart for me and, more powerfully, a touch of His heart for Chiana. His love letter of pursuit is changing my life and the lives of my friends. ■

Chiana's name has been changed to protect her privacy.



BRAZIL FAMILY CENTER CAMPAIGN



2007

plotting the course with the Brazil field

- 2002-2004 – WMF begins visiting youth and families on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. Through building relationships, they are able to share the love of Christ with precious friends.
- 2006 – WMF Brazil begins a child-sponsorship program in partnership with *Projeto Vidinha*, a home for at-risk children.
- 2007 – Esdrienne Cohen is employed as the first Brazilian staff member. She also humbly accepts the position of board president and starts the registration process for *Palavra Encarnada* (WMF Brazil). See *Esdrienne's staff profile* on page 3.

September 1, 2007

God willing, WMF Brazil will open the doors to the WMF family center, a safe place where women and their children are invited to participate in fellowship, Bible study and education away from the harsh environment of the streets.

As WMF Brazil takes this next step in establishing a community presence, we invite you to join us.



Photos (left to right):
A young mother and friend of WMF, by Jenna Pashley;
shoe-shine supplies, by Jenna Pashley; and a WMF friend, by Matt Zeeb.

The desired location of the WMF family center is located in downtown Rio, a short walk from where the community makes street visits. The initial program will include: Bible study, literacy, spiritual support, hygiene, nutrition, basic health and more. Future program additions will include job training, counseling, and seminars on child care, life skills and other subjects for the women, and educational resources for their children.

Estimated monthly operating expenses are between \$800 and \$900 (US). These figures include rent, program costs and local staff salaries.

If you feel led to financially support the WMF Brazil family center, please send your support to WMF, P.O. Box 70, Omaha, NE, 68101 and indicate on a separate note that the gift is for the "Brazil Ministry Fund."

If you have questions, please contact Rich Nichols at: rich.nichols@wordmadeflesh.com. Please keep us in your prayers!



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