

W5 on Missions

Who... Joyce Hancock was first appointed by Canadian Baptist Ministries in October 1978 and served for four years in Indonesia. While serving as Director of Christian Education at First Baptist Church in Dartmouth, NS, Joyce participated in short term assignments with Canadian Baptist Volunteers (CBV) and Acadia Divinity College on a study tour in Bolivia, and with a Growth Ministry Team in India, and a CBV mission tour to Trinidad. Each of these experiences confirmed her desire to return to overseas mission service. In 1993 she was re-appointed as Global Field Staff to ministry in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, to work along with others in outreach to abandoned children.



Where... Brazil

What... For eleven years, Joyce worked with The Sharing Way's ministry to street youth in Brasilia. During that time, she spent much time on the streets and, with Brazilian colleagues, formed an association which created Ministério SERVO (Servant Ministry), a rehabilitation centre in Brasilia designed specifically for youth. In 2004, Joyce and some friends launched a prevention program in the city of Águas Lindas in the state of Goiás, not far from one of Ministério SERVO's centres. This ministry eventually became Free Flight Association. Joyce and others work full time now with this ministry, which has expanded to help not only youth, but children and adults as well. In 2005, they were able to buy property which allows them to develop more courses, sports and other outreach activities.

From Joyce's December 2008 Ministry Update:

"Our courses and various ministries, such as our Sunday School are always first on our minds. We have offered a good variety again this year and have even begun some new courses. We were able to invite our children and youth to a Vacation Bible School again and to a basketball camp which taught the Bible along with the basketball. We hope to do more sport camps next year. We would like to be able to do more spiritual retreats, something that didn't happen this year. Instead, this year, we established our Sunday school. Slowly we are gaining a core group of people who come to praise and to study. Continue to pray for a larger impact on our community through our Sunday school.

My earlier "wish list" mentioned completing two bathrooms in our upstairs conference area. We have about 95% finished those and also the kitchen, storage and service areas beside

them. We are pleased and praising the Lord for this progress. Next year, we want to finish the floor in the conference room. On December 14, we had our conference room rented for a graduation. We hope to do more of this when it is actually finished. We have also been working on creating space in our computer lab for a small internet room to better serve our students. We have the room built but still need to finish the wiring. We have two computers available for this project and are planning for more.

...We received an opportunity to buy an ice cream business that already has a good number of customers. Our friend, who sold us his business, is now training our workers in making and selling ice cream. For some time now, we have been looking for opportunities to make our own money to pay our bills. Up to this point, most of our support has come from various kinds of donations. In the future, we need to be able to sustain ourselves. The ice cream business is one of the methods that will enable us to be self-sustaining and also continue to provide jobs for local people.

For now, we have put the ice cream equipment into the bakery. We plan to use profits from the ice cream shop to buy the initial bakery equipment. We will decide early next year how we will operate the bakery and the ice cream business together. We have another building near the bakery that we can use and sell our products together in one place. We had been saving this building for Wilson and his sculpture class but he has taken on leadership of a church as well as his own job so we expect there will be a delay in his coming to serve with us. Keep us in prayer as we set up and look for the best people to make the bakery and the ice cream shop go ahead.

...Ivan serves as our director three days a week. He has been doing an excellent job. On his other days, Ivan works in graphics and has convinced us that setting up a graphics business would also help us achieve our self-sustainability goal. ...We have started training two of our young men in graphic design and Ivan has volunteered to be responsible for setting up the business and bringing in the initial clients. We will eventually offer courses in graphic design and operation of the various machines."

Why... The Free Flight program of courses, counselling and evangelism, attracts youth from a needy section of the city and off the streets and helps change their direction in life by giving opportunities for study, music, recreation, computer knowledge, job training and spiritual formation.

When... Joyce writes, "We haven't forgotten our plan to buy more property for the future expansion of our services. That has been voted on and in 2009, we'll be looking at a piece of property very close to Free Flight."

Lorna McCain

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