

W5 on Missions

“But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.”

Psalm 73:28

Who... Joyce Hancock

Joyce was raised in a Christian home in Thunder Bay, ON. Following high school, Joyce attended the Baptist Leadership Training School in Calgary. She graduated from Lakehead University (B.A., B.Ed.). After serving with CBM in Indonesia, she studied at Acadia Divinity College (M.R.E.).

Joyce served at First Baptist Church in Dartmouth, NS, where she was involved in many aspects of Christian training, youth work, mission tours and community outreach. She 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.

Where... Brazil, South America

Brazil covers nearly half of South America. The country may be divided into the Brazilian Highlands, or plateau, in the south and the Amazon River Basin in the north. Over a third of Brazil is drained by the Amazon and its more than 200 tributaries.

Government: Presidential Federal Republic

Population (2007 est.): 190,010,647

Capital: Brasília

Language: Portuguese (official), Spanish, English, French

Ethnicity: white 53.7%, mulatto (mixed white and black) 38.5%, black 6.2%, other 0.9% (Japanese, Arab, Amerindian)

Religion: Roman Catholic 74%, Protestant 15%, Spiritualist 1%, 7% none

When...

Joyce was appointed by Canadian Baptist Ministries in 1978 and served for four years in Indonesia. In 1993, she was re-appointed to ministry in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, to work along with others in outreach to abandoned children. 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, not far from one of Ministério SERVO's centres. They began courses, counseling and evangelism with the intention of attracting youth from a needy section of the city and off the streets, hoping to change their direction in life by giving opportunities for study, music, recreation, computer knowledge, job training and spiritual formation. This ministry eventually became Free Flight



Joyce Hancock

What...

In her *July 2007 Ministry Update* Joyce writes, “While we continue to offer courses and encouragement to our community, we also try to continue to complete our facility...”

...We have had a good semester of courses and witnessing, with many new students. Adílio has finished his silk screen course and has gained some practice so he hopes to begin teaching a course in August. Frank will be able to begin his computer maintenance course in August too since we have received some donations of old computers for mounting and dismounting. He will also carry on with the basic computer course and the keyboard typing course. His sister, Poliana, continues to give the hairdressing course...

...one example of God at work in the lives of our students. Diego first came as a student to take English. He wasn't much interested and stopped attending. Later he came back and offered to teach Spanish and started taking English again. Diego comes from a Catholic background and didn't have a Bible of his own. Because he is improving well in English and also helping with another course, we invited him to join the Canadian team in June for an overnight trip to Pirenópolis. We took four of the young fellows on our volunteer staff with us. At our Sunday morning sharing service, Diego shared how God kept putting it in his heart to return to Free Flight and to offer to teach Spanish. Now Diego spends every morning from Tuesday to Saturday at Free Flight. After the sharing time, we prayed together and Diego prayed a beautiful prayer straight from the heart.”

Why...

“Over the past month, Divino, Frank and I have been taking a course in human rights and conflict resolution... We hope to make conflict resolution and counseling a permanent part of what we offer the community through Free Flight. Pray for wisdom as we begin to serve the community in this way. Since I am leaving here at the end of August for furlough in Canada, Frank and Divino will begin the work in this area.

Please pray also for Catherine from Winnipeg, who was with us last year as part of the BWOQ team and will be returning in August to help us for about 10 months with French, English and some music....

One of our dreams for next year is that we will be able to start a Sunday School at Free Flight on Sundays... Please be in prayer regarding this new venture.”

Lorna McCain Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW