



## February 2026



The 17th of February is the official day of carnival although in both Recife and Olinda street celebrations started a lot earlier in January. Carnival is basically a street celebration of the flesh where anything is allowed - (this includes use of drugs and sexual acts being carried out in public) It can be also a very violent time with lots of crimes being committed. Many of the parents of the Good News Club children in Peixinhos either go to carnival to participate in the activities or go to sell products such as water and food. Some also go to collect the cans, and plastic bottles which litter the streets after every dance block has passed by. During this time, they can make quite a lot of money. I knew a family in Aguazinha (the rubbish tip area) who sold candy floss during carnival and it was their busiest time of year with the whole family involved in the process.

As the parents are not at home many of the children and teenagers from the Good News Club have to go with their parents to the street events. This is a time in which Rosa (the Good News Club leader) says "we need to pray that God will protect them as they go with their parents to the celebrations".

Some of the congregations organize retreats at this time in which the whole congregation goes away for the 5 days over the main carnival period usually into the interior or beach. (This is usually middle- and upper-class congregations).

The congregation of Peixinhos usually joins with another congregation to keep the cost down and has supported several of our teenagers in paying for them to go. Beberibe congregation tries to have a camp retreat every 3 to 4yrs as most members can't afford to go every year.

I hope to use this time for organizing and preparing material. Most activities in Brazil really only start proper after carnival.

The end of January and early February is also a time of planning meetings and training sessions with the volunteers as we look again at what it means to be a volunteer. We will look at rules and discipline in the various activities with all the safeguarding forms to be filled in. The congregation of Beberibe hopes to implement these safeguarding principles in the Sunday school so I hope to facilitate them in this process.

February is also a time of preparation for the Easter evangelistic street events in both the communities of Beberibe and Peixinhos together with visits to the nursing home.

### Prayer points:

- Pray for protection for the families of both Beberibe and Peixinhos poor communities/Favelas during the whole period of carnival.
- Pray for planning, preparation and training sessions during this month that we would know God's guidance and direction.
- Continue to pray for the various activities in both communities.
- Give thanks for the opportunity I had to catch up with family in a short visit to Ireland over Christmas and the New year.