

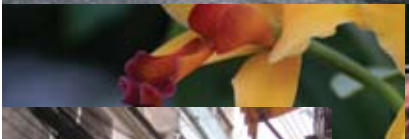
# DOWNTOWN PULSE summer/fall 2007; vol.1, issue 3

bringing the heart of the church to the heart of the city

## Saudade, Brazil!

In Portuguese, saudade means a feeling of deep longing and missing for someone or something very special. Our time of continued missionary training in Brazil was very formative. We had over 130 hours of instructional training on missionary practice and life, including relational bonding and cultural sensitivity, working with the local church, issues specific to urban contexts, culture shock and self-care, spiritual warfare, relational evangelism, church planting through small groups, and anthropology for better communication. We visited churches and local people of Teresopolis, Rio de Janeiro, and Jacarezinho. We talked with Brazilian pastors and missionaries, many of whom work in the inner city areas of Rio, and learned from their experiences. We have kept in contact with one of these pastors, and despite the language barrier, we know what each other is going through, and we pray for one another, even today. In a surprising turn of events,

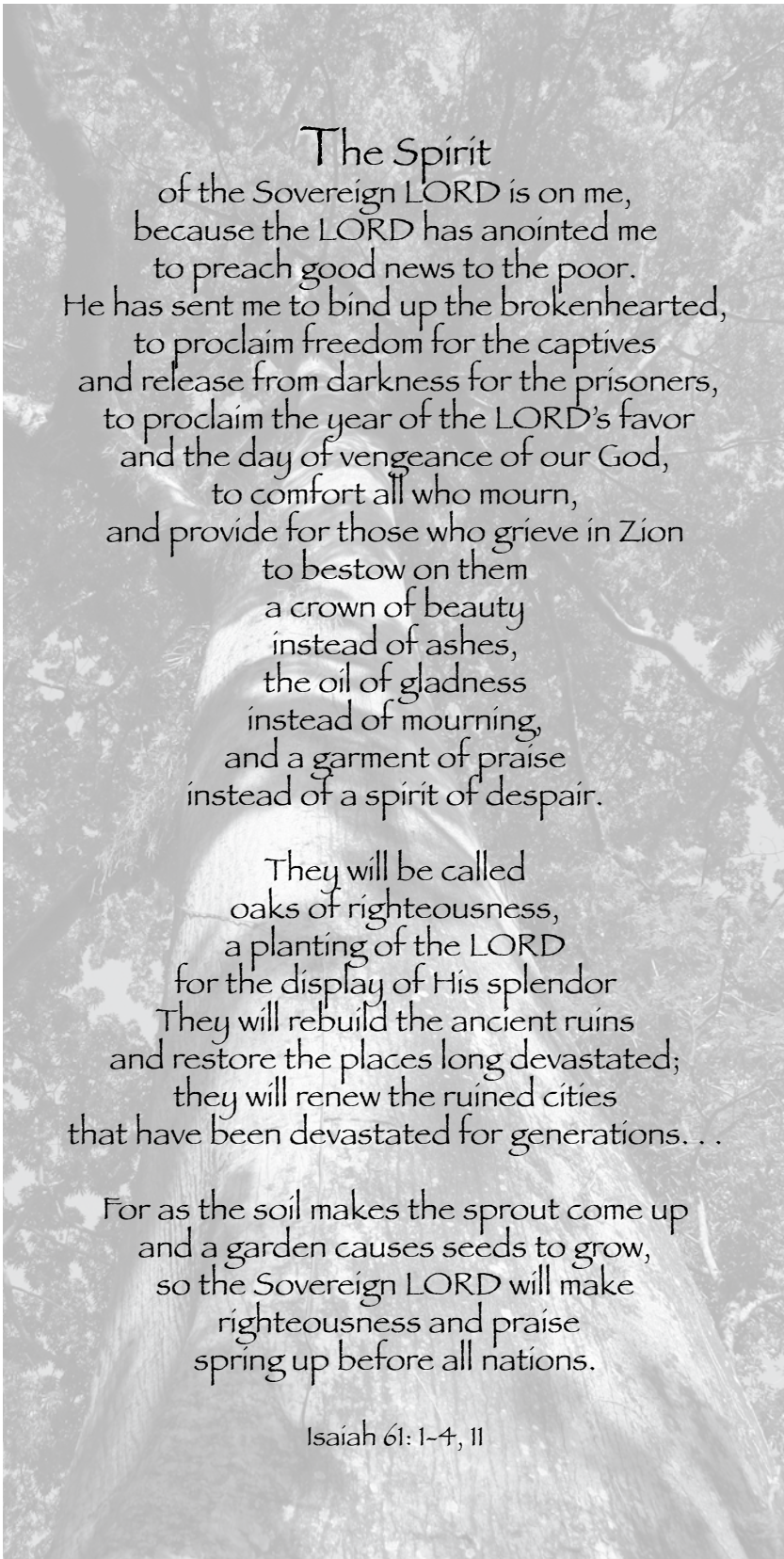
we met her godson Rafael in our living room in Lexington. At the end of the training, we scattered all over the world: Brazil, Zambia, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Spain, Ecuador... and downtown Lexington, Kentucky.



## the beat

to get the full scoop, [www.downtownpulse.org](http://www.downtownpulse.org)

⋮ UBS for Grown-ups ⋮ Athletes in Action Urban Plunge ⋮ local microfinancing discussions ⋮ raising awareness about refugees in Lexington ⋮ visiting friends in prison ⋮ hospitality for many overnight guests – family, strangers, friends, traveling missionaries ⋮ school(s) for conversion work group ⋮ relational bonding with our new neighbors ⋮ pancake breakfasts ⋮ preparing a space for ministry ⋮ visiting Sunday Schools ⋮ raising support ⋮



## The Spirit

of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion  
to bestow on them  
a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called  
oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of His splendor  
They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations. . .

For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make  
righteousness and praise  
spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 11



## AROUND THE CORNER

**For the past several months, we have been tilling the soil of ministry: preparing a place, nurturing relationships, and finding where God is already cultivating growth. Since we are also still working our "day jobs," it is hard to travel to raise support. We will be concentrating on a "Mission Launch" at Lexington FUMC to culminate in April. We especially need prayer for this time, that we achieve the goal of being fully supported by the end of April. This means that we need pledges to cover 100% of our monthly living and ministry costs. We already have 25% of our monthly costs raised in pledges. Each monthly pledge gets us closer to full time ministry, closer to serving the downtown community, and closer to training and guiding FUMC members to be missionaries in their own city. We have over \$20,000 raised and saved in our account at The Mission Society, waiting for us to be fully supported (we do not draw any salary until we are fully supported).**

**If you would like to join our support base, either through prayer, personal involvement, and/or funding, we would love to have you. Please contact us directly, if you would like to receive our monthly prayer letter and become a part of our prayer support base, or if you would like to know about missions opportunities. To support us financially, visit [www.themissionsociety.org/missionaries/heinz](http://www.themissionsociety.org/missionaries/heinz) or ask us for a prayer/pledge card.**

**We have taken hundreds of pictures over the past several months, and have made photo albums online. Go to our website to see more pictures of Brazil (cows and crops, buildings and beaches, people and palm trees), more pictures of our home (lots of extreme makeover before-and-after shots), and pictures of our friends, family, and neighbors.**  
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# Beauty for Ashes

This fall, we experienced a drought here in Kentucky. At one point, our potted plants outside looked pathetic. Our hanging fern was dry and crunchy. Our vines had equal number of yellow and green leaves. Our tomato and pepper plants had all but given up on producing fruit. I came home from work one day, and decided that they had been neglected long enough. I started the seemingly fruitless task of taking off dead leaves and watering. My dear neighbor Donna came over to see what I was doing. At that time, Donna and her family of five lived in one of the boarding houses across the street. Now they live in a nearby house, and they have remained our trusted friends. So, Donna came over and reassured me that not all was lost. These plants looked dead to me, but to her they held hope. She helped me take off leaves, and told me which leaves to keep (because she could see the new leaves beginning to bud at the stem). She then said that she wanted to give me something. She took me over to her home, and showed me her plants. After picking up a small aloe starter, she said, "I want you to have this." She says this a lot, as she has brought us mini-blinds and boots and other wonderful things. Every time I offer her something, she returns with something from her home. She says this is what neighbors do. So, she gave me her aloe plant, and I gave her some of our thyme. I apologized and told her that I didn't have any good dirt. All of ours looked dry and sandy. She said, "No. It's fine dirt. Look at this." She took my pathetic looking dirt, and turned it over into her pot. She mixed it in with her good dirt, and soon after, there was no sign of dry, sandy dirt. It all looked good. So after sharing dirt and plants, she went back home to fix dinner, and I put the butterfly ornament she gave me in the pot with the aloe. A new shoot grew from that dirt that I thought was worthless. What appears to be dead or worthless is not.



"Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. 'I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten ... You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.'" (Joel 2:23-27)

Lord, fill our cities with your abundant shower of healing so that never again will your people be shamed.



## Wisdom from Our Neighbor, Donna

- wipe a thin layer of mayonnaise on your plants' leaves to keep them shiny and healthy
- when suffering from shingles, help stop the itch by putting oatmeal in a stocking, wetting it until damp, and patting it on your skin
- a kitchen is a holy place; it is God's place; it is my Father's table, so do not come to the table without shirt or shoes, don't talk about boyfriends, girlfriends, or drama, and you must say grace; the only reason you have food in front of you is that God provided it; no one disrespects my kitchen

**PULSE**  
points



**contact us!**

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# Creating a space

Last July, we became home owners, and we moved into our new home the first of September. We discovered that our one bedroom apartment had served us faithfully for two years, but we were busting at our seams during Bible study, meetings, and meals. Our paperwork was on every table of the house, since we had no office. After two years of searching for the right house, we found everything we asked for and more, just a few blocks from our apartment. A ton of work was needed to get it up and ready for move-in, and we're still working on things, but it was in much better shape than any other house we looked at. Working on the house has bonded neighbors, family and friends. It's beautiful to see something long abandoned (20+ years) come back to life with time, love, and dedication.

The first step of being sensitive missionaries is to bond with neighbors. We are happy to know that we have neighbors who have already become good friends, sharing the more intimate and fragile parts of life. We also have a neighbor who knows we're always good for coffee, and he will stay for pancakes on occasion. We have another neighbor who brings over warm, yummy things straight from the oven. We have other neighbors who loan us tools and help with installing windows and siding. I've shared clothes back and forth with a few different neighbors. We had our first "short term missions" type work group come to help us and our neighbors remove the 8 foot tall bushes in front of our house. It was a real symbol of overgrown life and barriers that need to be removed in our desire to be more connected with our community in a way that is proactive, dedicated, vulnerable, and loving. It was powerful to see neighbors and fellow Christians tear down those physical walls that were literally between us.

Come and visit us. We've already had twelve overnight guests in the past two months. We've also had several meals that brought more than ten people to the table. We would love to share life with you in our home.

