



7th October 2010

Dear Friends

A Group of 6 Volunteers go out to Happy Child in July

Ellie Roach reports back

“No words can explain how much I loved my trip to Brazil. It was an amazing and fantastic adventure. Whilst I was serving in Happy Child I met a boy called Michael who is ten years old. He told me how terrible his family life had been, how he had no choice but to run away to the streets where he faced constant danger and a struggle for survival. Michael told me there was a death threat over his life. I couldn't believe the story of this cute, curly haired, cheeky, little boy. Michael told me that Happy Child had provided a place of safety and security that he had never really known. It was a privilege to spend my summer volunteering for the work of Happy Child in Brazil and I learnt alot about some of the world's most destitute children.”

Happy Child Supporter Fundraising

This summer our supporters have been busy raising funds for Happy Child through sponsored events. In July Vivienne Taylor and Greg Mintor tackled the Camel Estuary in Cornwall by swimming from Padstow to Rock. Between them they raised over a 1000 pounds for the charity. In September supporter Rachel Dalton trained hard to take part in a local triathlon in Surrey. A big thank you from the Happy Child team for all your efforts on our behalf. She raised over £600. We are always encouraged to hear of supporter fundraising activities.. If you have any news about fundraising activities you have done for Happy

Child please contact Caroline Taylor caroline.taylor@happychild.org

Happy Child's 'OneThousand Sign Up' Campaign

This summer Happy Child has launched its 1000 supporter campaign. Our goal is for a 1000 people to sign up to give £3.00 to



Tiago



Tiago is ten years old. He is presently in one of our homes in Recife.



Ellie Roach with Michael and the Brazilian team in Happy Child Brazil



Ellie with the Happy Child team of workers in Belo Horizonte.

£5.00 a month on a direct debit. Happy Child is working hard to promote its campaign through talks and presentations as well as through its 5 Supporter groups. If you know a friend or colleague who could support our work by giving £3.00 - £5.00 a month please encourage them to go on our website www.happychild.org and set this up through Just Giving or by downloading from our webpage, by pressing donate now, the relevant form to return to their bank.

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute'
Proverbs 31:8

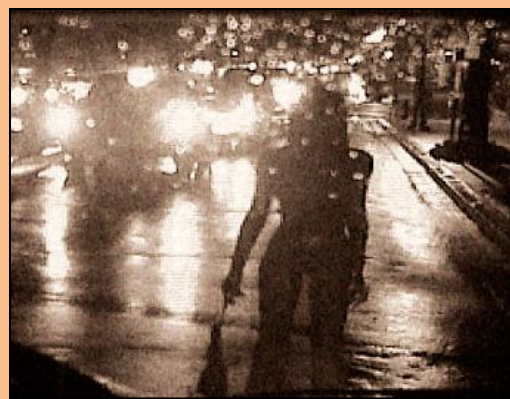
On Monday 27th September it was the UN's Tourism day and Happy Child sent a letter to the Guardian, which was endorsed by some of our partners, expressing concerns that in indulging in a day of international triumphalism we are ignoring the industry's dark side – a sex tourism trade in which young street children, sometimes as young as nine years old, are recruited and groomed to satisfy a demand from tourists who travel abroad for sex. It was published and you can read it on this page.



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The Guardian Newspaper, Sept 27th 2010

Remember the child victims of sex tourism

As we mark the UN's World Tourism Day today we shall be looking to celebrate the role played by tourism in encouraging and revitalising local cultures and traditions. However, we are concerned that focusing solely on the benefits that tourism brings risks ignoring the industry's dark side – a sex tourism trade in which young children are recruited and groomed to satisfy a demand from tourists who travel abroad for sex.

In Brazil, along with partner organisations, we are working to mitigate the effects of this insidious trend; reports state that the country is overtaking Thailand as the most popular destination for child sex tourism. Despite Brazil's growing economy, street children in cities like Recife, in the north – east of the country, are turning to prostitution simply to afford a plate of food.

Life on the street for these children is grim and often punctuated by violence, drug addiction and sexual abuse. Many girls fall pregnant by the age of 12. The statistics are heart-wrenching – Unicef estimates that there are as many as 250 000 child prostitutes in Brazil. Faced with this alarming epidemic, we and our partners are engaged in a daily struggle to help street children by giving them a safe place and, hopefully, a chance to rebuild their lives.

While we recognize the positive impact that tourism had had, it is vital that occasions such as World Tourism Day do not obscure the need to confront the industry's darkest manifestations.

Sarah de Carvalho *Happy Child International*,
Christine Beddoe *ECPAT UK*, **Andy Stockbridge**
Toybox, **Louise Meincke** *Consortium for Street Children*, **Andrew Webb** *ABC Trust*, **Danny Smith**
Jubilee Campaign, **Tony Miles** – *Prouten 180°*