

Ben and Dani Jacobs

Church Planting • Discipling • Training Nationals



"The Unnoticeables"

Ironically, they are everywhere. There are more of them than of the latter. They walk by us and we walk by them. Yes, we notice the ones that have an attractive appearance. Maybe the next new look in fashion. One that has that bubbly personality, an infectious laugh. The one who seems to be able to jump into any conversation. And then there are the "rest".

Landy, a new growing convert herself and recently baptized is not one that you would classify as unnoticeable. She stands out in many areas in her life, but she has the unique ability to notice everyone including the unnoticeables. She met a lady in her workforce that was at that age when she should be rejoicing over many victories. Instead, she is one of the many; working long hours in front of a production belt. Not just picking up those pieces, but the pieces of her life. She had just gone through an unexpected divorce after she found out her husband had left her for another man. Desiring to just get away from this nightmare, she signed the papers too quickly. Financially strapped, she found herself with her teenage son sharing a room in a small house. In her free time, reeling from the emotional aftermath, she had to take care of her now nearly paralyzed father who had a stroke. She herself cannot see very well due to a deformity in her right eye. Her personality is both simple and sincere. Her teenage son already on the quiet side was beginning to isolate himself even more. This description is not for you to take pity, but to describe some quiet and sad souls that we usually would simply pass by. The Unnoticeables. But Landy noticed her sadness. She befriended her, and invited her out to our church barbecue. And then our church noticed them and opened up their hearts to them. After a few weeks, I was able to offer a Bible study. We plodded through the studies and their both simple and sincere questions as this material was very new to both of them. What a joy it was after about two months of Bible study with Landy and her husband Renan, and my wife and I as we knelt down in their living room, (there was barely enough room for all six of us on the floor). And these two unnoticeables realized that Jesus had noticed them long ago, and they accepted Christ as their Savior.

Her name is Solange and she has no problem noticing the unnoticeables (maybe because she knows what it is like). She struck up a conversation with a troubled lady who was just visiting someone on her street, and invited her to church. Her father, almost reaching 80 and is barely able to talk, was almost dragged into one of our studies as his body is stiffening up after a stroke. But he keeps wanting to hear more about Jesus. Most would just pass him by. Bernardo who is another factory worker and rides to work on his bike just might be one of the most shy people that I have ever met. Who noticed him? Yup, the new ex-unnoticeable.

It is rather ironic to realize that the factory that Solange works at is a plastic factory. It takes old worthless plastic and recycles them into functional items. That is actually what Jesus did to Solange and Guilherme, unnoticeable and seemingly without worth, only to be recycled into children of the King!

Some new noticeables: we took on three new missionary families after our missions conference. Said goodbye to a new couple that moved to Rio de Janeiro. Celebrated our first Christmas cantata with a play. We are now hosting a seminary student for two and a half months at our house. And thanks to some recent gifts we will be paving our new parking lot and sports court in January. Pray these new noticeables will be used to reach the unnoticeables that are all around us.

Serving Him in Brazil,

Ben, Dani, Sabrina, Melody, and Josiah Jacobs