

SMITH



Coreenne & Phil
Smith

BRAZIL

LANGUAGE

Portuguese

**MINISTRY
PRIORITIES**

Discipleship,
Education,
Evangelism

CHILDREN

Marc
Isabella

BIRTHDAYS

Coreenne 4/24
Phil 6/8
Marc/Adult
Isabella 5/4



LOCATION

Brazil



ABOUT

CORENNE and PHIL serve in Brazil with Hope Unlimited (HU), a residential vocational training program rescuing high-risk street children ages 10-18. HU has embraced thousands of children for over 30 years and strives to be a full-service center for human brokenness, making Christ known by not only tending

to spiritual needs but to physical, intellectual and emotional needs, as well as social brokenness. Hope Unlimited ensures that each youth is launched with a viable job skill and provides after-care through their early adulthood. HU's goal is for each youth to experience transformation through Christ and become true beacons of hope to their communities and future generations. Coreenne works especially with the older children transitioning into independent living and is a surrogate mother to many. Phil is the founder and CEO of Hope Unlimited.



SCAN ME

EMAIL: cpsmith@internationalministries.org



MINISTRY STORY

She'd been with us two months but had never talked or smiled. Tonight, we were celebrating her eighth birthday and were determined to make Janiana smile.

Every month, Corenne and I take the birthday children on a special outing to the mall. Despite my best attempts, Janiana still had neither spoken nor smiled. In the arcade, as all the girls played and chattered, she just stood staring off into the distance. Evidently, her mind was a million miles away because there was nothing in the plaza except a neglected red gumball machine in the corner.

Preparing to leave, I felt a little tug on my sleeve. Looking down, I caught Janiana's imploring eyes. "Uncle Philip, can you buy me one of those gumballs?" All the other girls bounced and screamed, "She talked! She talked!"

Tearfully taking her by the hand, we walked in the direction of the gumball machine. "Lord," I silently prayed, "please let it work!" Holding my breath, I stuck in a coin. To a ballad of dings and flashes, the bright red ball spun around and around before popping out into Janiana's eager little fist.

I wondered how long she'd dreamed about getting a little red gumball. She'd evidently determined not to talk until she had something really important to say. This, for her, was clearly urgent.

Gumball securely in hand, Janiana's face lit up with a smile from ear to ear, which seemed to say, "Now I know everything will be all right."



Two program participants work in the autobody shop at Hope Unlimited.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for physical and emotional safety for the children who have low or no expectations, and that they will feel safe to receive and give back love.

Pray for divine protection for our graduates as they experience the inevitable hiccups of spreading their wings for the first time.

Pray for our house parents as they help former street kids who are getting used to baths, brushing teeth, and more importantly, following rules.

SCRIPTURE

*"How sweet are Your words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"*

Psalm 119:103 (NIV)