



## Known by Name

by Hope Owsley, Brazil

While visiting the Free Methodist school in Monte Santo, Bahia, I met its director, Gilson Andrade. When I asked if he knew the names of all 500 students, he replied, “No, but I know all of the troublemakers.”

I have friends who have not named their cat because no one really likes it. Naming something or someone gives it value, so it’s a staggering truth to know that God knows each of us by name (Isaiah 43:1; Exodus 33:17).

It gives me “warm fuzzies” to think God might even call me “Hopey,” which was the affectionate name my family gave me as a child. But Gilson’s statement reminded me God knows not only the names of those who have a love relationship with Him but also the names of those who have rejected Him. After all, if He knows the name of the farthest flung star (Psalm 147: 4, 5; Isaiah 40:26), no sinner is ever going to get far enough away to be forgotten. That thought takes me beyond the “warm fuzzies” to a place of real hope. The Lord knows the names of every person for whom I pray who has never experienced His salvation. He intercedes with me for them.

The Monte Santo School has a reputation in the city for accepting kids that no other school will take. Yes, they have troublemakers, but that’s just how the school wants it. Their goal is to reach out to *all* students with the life-transforming love of Jesus. I’m glad Gilson cares enough to know them by name.



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