



Rosie and Stu Bayford

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Location: Recife, Brazil



What we do: Meeting people at the edges with the hope of getting alongside them on a journey of faith



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and the church

Dear friends,

The worship song Goodness of God has been pertinent to us for the last few years now. When we were last back in the UK doing our CMS training, it felt like we sang it at every church we visited. Stu and I would just look at each other with a knowing smile, knowing that yes, even with the difficulties that have been and are ahead, he is faithful. It's not been an easy year in more ways than one for us, but God has stayed steadfast as he does, and we choose to be grateful.

Community market

The community market has really flourished in the second half of this year. We have a wonderful new volunteer, Greice, who is a natural leader, lives around the corner in Aguazinha and is well loved and respected by volunteers and families alike. She's been a real asset to the team and a great help to us by taking the lead with various things, particularly when we've not been able to be there due to illness, or lately when we were away on holiday. Some of the team have their own difficulties at home so we make sure to take them out and spend time together outside of the market too.



Taking the market team to the beach

We continue to reach about 100 people through all the families who come and week in, week out, there is always food to give – even when it looks like we're running low. We've been going to new supermarkets, asking to partner with them too, so we would appreciate your prayers that something comes of this!

We've established monthly workshops, timed to take place just before the food collection at the market, and they've gone down well. Recently we had a workshop on nutrition and the importance of healthy eating with Dayane, a church member who is a nutritionist. We also had a group of dental students teach the children how to look after their teeth, which is a huge problem in these communities. Both Dayane and the dentists did a brilliant job sharing relevant information in an insightful way and the children stayed attentive throughout!

We celebrated Children's Day in October, which is a big event here in Brazil. We invited all the children who are registered at the community market, and a local gym donated some presents to hand out to the children. We have 64 children on our books, so when the gym rang me that morning saying they had 20

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



presents to give out, we ran out and bought 20 more. We were sure we'd have more than 20 children, but also fairly sure we'd have less than 40, as we tend to have 20–30 in any given week.

However, every single one of the 64 children came. I couldn't believe it and was trying to work out if one of us could nip out to buy some other bits and pieces. But it really was like the Bible story of the loaves and fishes, because the 40 presents appeared to multiply, and every one of the 64 children left with a present that afternoon! Absolutely amazing – there's the goodness of God!

ReVive

The ReVive girls are a joy as always. They really are incredible little ladies, always keen for a hug and they love looking after and cooing over Ottelie when we take her in! Rosie continues to run weekly exercise classes with them, while Stu is the go-to person for any maths homework and tends to be involved with most things within the home, from tech to finances.

We said goodbye to three of our wonderful girls, G, I and F, who all returned to members of their biological families. We thank God that their families wanted to take them back and were able to make some important changes to their lives to do this.

Do please continue to pray for the lovely girls who remain at the house, who would so love to be adopted and have their own families too. The adoption processes are often long and complicated.

The foster team have done another round of training and we currently have two foster families; one fostering a little girl, H, with Down's syndrome, and another fostering a little boy, JL, who is just a few months old. Do pray for these families and the ReVive team supporting them.

Life

We've not had an easy time with illness, from poor Ottelie picking up viruses and infections, to Stu's back and Rosie generally just getting quite run down from lack of sleep. However, Ottelie has really enjoyed being at nursery since she started in May. And we are enjoying it too! Our mornings feel much more efficient without our precious girl to entertain, but we also love pick-up time and then having lunch together.

We've not long come back from Portugal, where we had a special few weeks seeing our families and some close friends and feel very thankful for this. The Christmas countdown is now on so we're getting ready for a fun Christmas party at the community market where we give out hampers for every family!

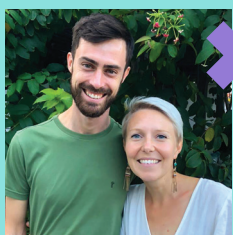
If you don't already follow our monthly updates, please do get in touch with us at hello@thebayfords.com and we'll happily add you to our mailing list.

With love, thanks and every blessing,

Rosie, Stu and Ottelie x



Photos from top to bottom: Children's dental workshop; having fun on Children's Day; reading afternoon at ReVive; special time away



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and church

We've loved hearing recent mission stories from others in our area of work.

Jonathan in Ecuador has grown spiritually and got his first job as he's gained life skills, and a Breakfast Club in Hull celebrated 25 years of food, community and steps of faith.

Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope