



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



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Dear friends,

January 2026 marks seven years of service in this beautiful country, which we really feel privileged to have called home. It has been such an honour to work with some of the most vulnerable in society here; initially working with the ReVive girls, and over time working more in the Aguazinha favela community. What a seven years it has been! We've learned far more than we could have imagined, experienced many highs and lows, and seen God at work through it all.

It also marks our final year, as after much thought, prayer and guidance, we have decided to return to the UK this April. It's been on our hearts for some time, and we do feel God is calling us from Olinda, Recife, back to the UK.

As we have tried to listen to God's voice to discern when to return, various things have confirmed our calling. We are finally in a position to hand over the Community Market to the local church, Agua Viva of Aguazinha. We had a few complications with the leadership changing, and church activities are currently taking "holidays" before starting back up (January is the equivalent of UK summer holidays), but we passed on the baton to the church at the Christmas party, and praise God, had enough donations to give out Christmas hampers to all the families who have ever been a part of the Community Market. We had 50 families and 93 kids on our last Friday. There were many laughs and many tears, and we will hold these people in our hearts forever.

Since the birth of our precious girl, Ottelie Joy, in 2022, we have found it increasingly difficult balancing work and parenting without a support network around us, and doing work that can take an emotional toll too. While we're sure that, given time, Ottelie would pick Portuguese up again, since our furlough last year she has really struggled with the language, which has impacted her confidence and that's been hard to see and feel responsible for. Seeing her with her grandparents and cousins when we were in the UK, and here over the Christmas period, we can see what joy they bring to her life and would love her to be closer to them. We too would like to be closer to our family and spend more of our lives alongside them.

We are returning to the UK in April, but in the meantime we are more present at ReVive again, helping with various admin and tech things. For the rest of our time here, we will continue to provide any support that Agua Viva church requires with the Community Market, but otherwise we will be far less present in Aguazinha. We are in conversation with other church leaders who have shown an interest in running a similar project, and as the Community Market still has some funds, we hope to help them with a seed fund if they



Celebrating all that has been at our Christmas Community Market

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



need it. We'll be sharing with them all our learning from our experience and a handbook of how it worked in the community of Aguazinha which they could use as a starting point.

ReVive continues to flourish. Some of our girls have been adopted or reintegrated with their biological families during the last few months, while for others, the search for adoptive families continues. Our foster care service continues to grow with more training for foster families, and it's really exciting to see this taking off. And ReVive is finally receiving some Brazilian government funding – after all these years, and A LOT of bureaucracy! It's really wonderful that some of this NGO's funding is now coming from here.

So, as we round off, we should say that this won't be our last link letter – there will be another when we're back and at the end of our time with CMS as we will be completing our commitments, including church visits for six months once in the UK. And as ever, we continue with bimonthly newsletters via email. But despite this, it feels right to say thank you for following our journey until this point. We have so enjoyed being mission partners with CMS throughout this time. It's been a real privilege! We have appreciated every prayer, every email, every donation – we couldn't have done this without you. So, THANK YOU. We are incredibly grateful. As we head toward the end of our time with CMS, we're reminded that mission is a lifelong calling for all of us. God's work in Brazil doesn't stop just because we're returning to the UK. In our next newsletter, we'll be sharing the story of our dear friends Marcio and Noemi who also work in Brazil. We're hoping you might feel led to support them in the same wonderful way you've supported us – to keep the momentum of God's work moving forward.

We enter the new year with lots of change ahead, and lots of unknowns, but feeling a real peace with what's to come, and knowing that one thing remains – God is with us in it all. We hope you know this wherever you are and whatever you are doing too.

Every blessing and lots of love,
Rosie, Stu and Ottelie

Prayers appreciated for:

- ▶ Us as a family as we prepare for life in the UK; ending well here, wrapping up work, and all the practicalities of fitting our lives here into suitcases to come back.
- ▶ For Ottelie with the transition process. While we trust it is the right decision, we understand it is yet more change for her which is hard at just two years old. She will turn three shortly after our UK arrival.
- ▶ For the Community Market as it continues under new leadership in Aguazinha, and for Agua Viva church running it. For the new families that will be part of it.
- ▶ For ReVive as it continues to look after the girls in its care, and as the foster families grow. For all the children that go through this care system.



Photos from top to bottom: We feel very grateful and blessed to have wonderful families; one of the communities that is interested in running its own Community Market; ReVive girls on a summer holiday trip out; thank you for all your support over the years



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In the UK, CMS's Pioneer Mission Training programme is equipping people to respond creatively to the Holy Spirit beyond the boundaries of traditional church. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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