



Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

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Location: Brazil



What we do: Connecting with people beyond the reach of traditional church, sharing the gospel in new ways and ministering to people's physical needs.



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

Dear friends and partners,

We are so enthused to share our latest news with you! We had lovely winter months in Indaiatuba with refreshing winds and our typical Brazilian festivals. These were brought to Brazil by Portuguese and Italian Catholics and usually honour saints such as John and Peter. Over time, these typical commemorations have evolved, integrating culinary elements from indigenous and African cuisine, creating a unique Brazilian flavour.

We decided to use this as a theme for an event that became our most fun yet! Our all-day event was filled with traditional music, games and delicious food. We enjoyed sweets made from pumpkin and corn and other Brazilian treats. There were fishing games, throwing games, face-painting, live music and a sung poem explaining the most important message of St John, found in John 3:16: that God loves us!

There is a country feel to the festivities: people wear checked shirts and everything is decorated with lots of colourful bunting! People who were passing by were struck by the eye-catching decorations, the games and the spirit of joy in our midst. The other thing people noticed was the fact that all the food and games were free! It was a day to remember!

We are grateful for groups of volunteers who come to Indaiatuba to make our events possible. A couple of times we have had whole youth groups come to work alongside us in their lively way. They bring great energy and are fantastic with kids, helping with face painting, singing and more. Often, we also have a number of local people chip in at the last minute, contributing their time, skills and resources. It is amazing to work together!

At the end of September, we introduced two new activities we feel had a real impact on the community. The first was a "journey through the arts" designed to make people reflect on being God's creation. People could admire paintings and think about what inspired the artist to paint that particular scene or figure. Then they were led to another station where they were shown a large beautiful box and told that they were going to see the most amazing work of art ever seen. Upon opening the box, there was a mirror and participants could see themselves, the most amazing work of our Creator!



A bird's eye view of our volunteer team setting up for our event in September

Support Marcio and Noemi:
churchmissionsociety.org/mnc

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



In September, for the first time, we had a special moment dedicated to sharing an inspiring story. You will remember that there was terrible flooding in southern Brazil in May, and that many lost their lives, homes and businesses. One family who survived the flood moved to Indaiatuba for work and have been coming to our events. So we asked them to share their experience of living through such a devastating disaster.

They escaped the rising floodwaters by car, only to spend the whole night on higher ground helping to save the rest of their extended family and neighbours. As the wife called people and helped coordinate people's locations, the husband went out with a friend on a boat, bringing people to safety throughout the night. A mum and her 10-day-old baby were among those rescued.

In the face of rising waters and overwhelming odds, this family brought the peace of Jesus with them as they worked together to ensure everyone's safety, helping neighbours and strangers alike.

As they told their story, the whole community was captivated and moved to tears. What an example of unity and resilience! What they highlighted in conclusion was that in all the devastation and destruction they saw, they never doubted God's goodness. They said they saw God everywhere, in the faces and the actions of people around them, working together to save as many people as they could.

You may remember that last year we shared that there was a significant shortfall in our funding. Thank you so much to those who have given sacrificially to help us with this. Although the situation has improved, our funding situation is not fully sustainable yet. Please pray with us for our God who provides to meet that gap. If you are able to increase your regular giving or to give an additional gift this year we would really appreciate you prayerfully considering it. You can give online at churchmissionsociety.org/mnc, by calling 01865 787489 or by completing the enclosed form if you received this letter through the post. Thank you so much for walking on this mission journey with us.

As we draw near to the end of the year, and to Christmastime, it is hard to ignore the news of unrest, injustice, and lack of peace all around us in our communities and the world. But this is not the full picture! Hearing stories like this reminds us of the powerful message of God's love and protection, showing that even in the darkest times, there is hope and light, because of Emmanuel, God with us!

Just as that dear family saw God's presence manifest through the hands and feet of those all around them, we hope that you too will perceive God at work around you this Christmas season.

Please pray for us as we are on home leave in the UK with our family until the first week in March. We will be visiting and speaking in our link churches, spending time at the CMS office recycling and doing some learning, and visiting relatives. Pray for our volunteers in Indaiatuba, that they will be blessed in running all the activities while we are away.

God bless you and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: Marcio wears a country hat for our typical Brazilian June festival; local artist encourages people to think about being created in God's image; Daiane and Marciano share their story of how they survived one of Brazil's worst floods; a volunteer spontaneously prays for a teenager in the park



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