

Becky and Evaldo Reid Rodrigues

Link Letter no. 6 | November 2021

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The call in action

Dear Friends,

Hello from Brazil, I hope this finds you well and safe! It's a great joy and privilege to write and share with you what has been happening in my life and ministry during the last few months here in Brazil, as well as with Becky in the UK. I would like to thank you for your prayers, support and generosity! May God bless you and your families!

Please read on to find out more about what I have been up to these last few months!

As Becky and I mentioned in our July link letter about our plans to move to England, I'd like to keep you up to date with where we are. Becky has been in the UK since early July and since September she's been working at York University. This means we can apply for my spouse visa from March 2022 and I will probably be able to go to England three months after our application.

Becky is getting on track with life in the UK and has even been visiting some of our churches and partners. We hope that you have managed to catch up with her and I look forward to hopefully seeing you all when I visit in December.

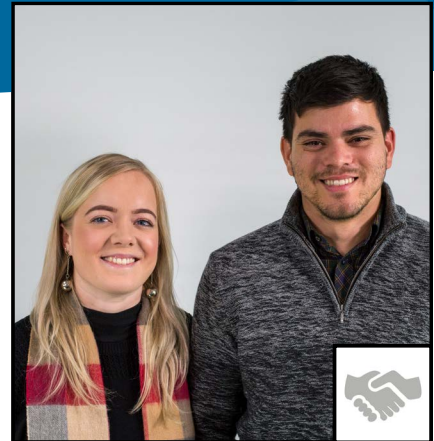
God has given us the strength to stay strong during this period of separation and I've been looking at this time as an opportunity to work as much as I can on the mission I'm involved in, so I'd like to share with you what I've been doing over the past few months:

ReVive

Since our last link letter, we have come a long way in developing the fostering service in Olinda. We are following two paths: the first one will be ReVive's service aimed at early childhood, which will not need a local law to function. We have the support of the entire protection network that will monitor it through a committee we have created. Through this, we hope to start training the first families in early 2022. The second path will be to draft a local law so that Olinda council and other organisations can have their own fostering services, invest public money in their fostering policies and have the option of offering the service to adolescents as well as children.

In addition to foster care, I am also responsible for the girls' legal cases. As you already know, we try to dialogue with the authorities so that each girl has her situation resolved as soon as possible, whether that means returning to her family or going to a new family through adoption.

Last week, for example, I wrote a legal petition to the state court requesting that a particular girl be placed in the temporary custody of a family on the adoption list while her appeal goes to the federal court. This particular



Name: Becky and Evaldo Reid Rodrigues

Location: Olinda, Brazil

Our call: To give the marginalised a voice and to bring hope and healing in Brazil by working with abused children.

Our role: Becky works at ReVive, a safe house for girls at risk. Evaldo supports ReVive and promotes fostering and adoption using his legal training.



Girls performing ballet at ReVive with their teacher Jessica

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girl has been in ReVive for three years and needs to have her situation resolved as soon as possible. Further delays will potentially prevent her development and chances of being adopted.

Igreja O Farol (Lighthouse Church)

At the end of October we inaugurated Espaço Farol, a space above our church building which will be used to serve our community and city. Throughout the pandemic, even when church services were online, we used our building to serve the community through the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and donating food and clothing to the most vulnerable communities. With Espaço Farol, our planning and perspective for 2022 is to develop a ministry called Farol Social, which will be responsible for leading and expanding the service in the city's communities and training and empowering churches and organisations in Olinda to serve their own communities.

RECAP (Christian lawyers' network)

In August 2020 a group of Christian lawyers (including me) founded RECAP (Christian lawyers' network). We are Christian lawyers and human rights activists from all over Brazil and we work in the defence of human rights, through the lens of the gospel of Jesus. We have acted in defence of some of the most vulnerable people in society, such as indigenous people and children and women. We try to influence decision makers to make laws that bring justice, and we offer legal advice to community leaders, students and church leaders about their rights and how to make a difference in their own communities. We understand that Jesus calls us to be light and defend the rights of the widow, the foreigner, the poor and orphans.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27 NIV

Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:23-24 NIV

Prayer points

- For Becky and me as we continue to go through the visa process and for us to stay strong despite the distance between us and that God would provide the financial support that this type of visa requires
- For Becky's re-adaptation to life and work in the UK
- For my ministry and life here in Brazil
- For an end to the pandemic and more countries to be able to vaccinate their populations
- For those families who are unemployed and starving as a result of the pandemic, inequality, poverty and climate injustice
- For the girls at ReVive, especially those who are waiting a long time to have their situation sorted
- For O Farol Igreja (Lighthouse Church), our pastor, Anderson, for our new Espaço Farol (Lighthouse event area) and my role as leader of Farol Social

Lots of love, Evaldo xxx



Photos from top to bottom: The ReVive fostering team with Pastor Elias at the charismatic church; Espaço Farol opening event; RECAP (Christian lawyers' network) meeting to celebrate our first anniversary; my interview for the blog *Papo de Primeira* with Rogerio Moraes at state newspaper *Folha de Pernambuco* (link to interview: <https://www.folhape.com.br/colonistas/papo-de-primeira/ordem-dos-advogados-de-pernambuco-com-atuacao-destacada-na-primeira-infancia/27083/>)

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If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

You can give to Becky and Evaldo at: churchmissionsociety.org/reidrodrigues

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