



Katia Rocks

Link Letter no. 28 | August 2024

Contact details:
kkatia_700@hotmail.com



Location: Florianópolis, Brazil



What I do: Through a church I helped start, I encourage people, particularly women, to connect with Christ

Dear friends,

It seems that time has passed so quickly since my last newsletter and many things have happened. It has often been a great challenge to balance ministry, family and my recent cancer diagnosis.

This morning, as I was talking to the Lord, he reminded me that what sustains me – and all of us who trust in him – is that he calls us to entrust all our challenges and concerns to him. In Matthew 11:28–30, he says: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble...”

In April, Marcelo Jacobs, who was leading Vineyard Floripa, needed to move to another state so he could better provide for his family, as they were not in a good financial situation here in Florianópolis. Because of his decision, I had to step up and take on the responsibility of leading the church, along with a support team. I thank God for this leadership team and also for committed members of the Kingdom of God who strengthen the church.

With this change in my role at the church, I have needed to be more active on Sundays, preparing sermons and building, as much as possible, a closer relationship with members. I ask for prayers for wisdom and provision from the Lord during this time of leadership.

In March, I started running a biblical discipleship course at the women’s prison in Florianópolis. It was a course with 12 inmates, where we explored Christianity, faith, repentance, transformation, and salvation together. The lives of these women who are deprived of freedom, are lives of hopelessness and abandonment, as most do not receive visits from family or friends. Unfortunately, in this institution, the prison system does not have much to offer these women, who spend most of their time in a cell with 11 other women, with no activities. The prison does not have sufficient staff or space to offer activities to these women. On the last day of the course, with some difficulty, we managed to get permission to bring in a soft drink and a cake for the final session. They were so grateful because they hadn’t eaten anything like that in a long time.

I received some encouraging testimonies from a few of them. One afternoon, one of them, B, said she had something very important to tell me and happily shared... “Teacher,” (as they call me), “after many years of



Women doing the discipleship course

Support Katia Rocks:
churchmissionsociety.org/rocks

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



disappointment with God and not praying, I was encouraged through this course to pray again." B's lawyer had filed a petition for a sentence review, which could cause her sentence to be either increased or decreased, and she had been waiting for a response for some time. She decided to pray and ask God for this. That week, she received the response: her sentence, which had been 40 years, was now reduced to 37 years. She told me, "So I knelt down and praised God for it." Seeing her joy in thanking God for something made me remember that these people, abandoned by society and family, are not and will never be abandoned by God. I am grateful to be able to go to them, to plant some seeds in soil where only the Lord knows whether anything will grow. This is my job; the rest is up to the Lord.

In June, I had a visit from Tania and Hennie from St John's in Chipping Sodbury. They spent 10 days with us. During these days, they ministered at the church on two Sundays and also attended an afternoon coffee event with the women of Vineyard. It was a time when they could share their faith and experiences from their evangelism work in UK prisons. The church grows greatly from hearing testimonies of God's action. We thank them for coming to share the Kingdom of God with us.

With joy, I also share that I am now in the third cycle of my treatment. By mid-August, the chemotherapy will end, and only the tests will remain to confirm that everything is well. It has been a rollercoaster of events and emotions, but in everything, I give thanks. It is truly in the most difficult moments that we see the Lord at work. I take this opportunity to encourage everyone reading this letter to check any changes in your health or body. For everything discovered in time has a cure. Unfortunately, cancer is a silent disease, and whatever the diagnosis, God is above all, and he is a God of miracles.

Joanna and Davi are doing well and growing quickly. Davi has had some asthma issues due to the winter and temperature changes. At the moment, they are having a two-week winter school break.

Prayer requests:

- ▶ for Vineyard Floripa: growth, strengthening, and wisdom in leadership.
- ▶ for the discipleship course in the women's prison: I will start a new course on 5 August. May there be true encounters with Jesus in this next group, and may I be a light in that place.
- ▶ for family: that the children continue to grow firm in God, and that my health is 100 per cent restored.

With gratitude to CMS and to each one of you who has supported me in prayer, encouragement and financially, I conclude this letter.

Katia, Joanna and Davi



Photos from top to bottom: Hennie and Tania visiting from the UK, ready to speak at the Vineyard Floripa coffee afternoon; Vineyard Floripa women's coffee afternoon; translating for Tania at the Vineyard Sunday service; Davi and Joanna enjoying their winter school holiday



Going further with Church Mission Society

Adelante: 6–7 September 2024. A hybrid event – in-person and online – to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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. Church Mission Society is a Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).