



# Rosie and Stu Bayford

Link Letter no. 9 | November 2022

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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.

To all our wonderful friends and supporters,

We're back in the UK! Having been accepted by CMS to join them as long-term partners, we have returned to complete the three-month training based in Oxford. Being selected was a thorough process but one that could fortunately be done online while we were still in Brazil. We're over a month into our training now, which has been both challenging and insightful, and we're getting on well with our cohort who we're living with communally.

It was sad to say goodbye to families we've got to know through the Community Market, and we left with a heartfelt time of prayer and saying goodbyes on the last market day we were there. We will of course be back to see them again, but it didn't feel easy to leave this community that has become a huge part of our life so quickly since our first market day almost six months ago. We threw a small party for our volunteers, who we really love and are so grateful for. It was a chance for us to thank them with cake and Brazilian treats and to hand over all responsibility for the running of the market.

Our time back in the UK will give us the opportunity to visit supporting churches and individuals and will hopefully also give us the chance to think through the next steps for the Community Market when we return to Brazil in the new year.

Speaking of the market, lots has changed since the last link letter went out! We have employed a local, Rafael, who we already knew through his involvement in the local church, Igreja Agua Viva (Living Waters Church) and the help that he'd been offering to the market as a volunteer. He's a gentle, servant-hearted friend who understands how the market runs and knows his community well. He's currently learning to drive too, so in the future he'll be able to take on the added role of driving the Kombi to do the food collections.

There's been transformation in the garden and courtyard area outside the market room. We had a wonderful team help us paint the walls so they look brighter and fresher, weed the flower beds to prepare the soil, plant some vegetable seeds that will help provide a little extra to the families attending the market and put-up netting to protect the vegetable patch.

While the market has been running really well in the current room, we've discussed the idea of using the



*Surplus produce at the Community Market ready for families to receive.*

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To the edges**

room just behind, which has stood largely unused but with old equipment from previous church projects stored in it. Using this room would allow the market to be permanently set up, rather than putting everything out and away again each week. It would also give us our own space for storing our crates and our own equipment, so as not to get in the way of others who also use the building. To make the new room ready for use required new tiles and a roller shutter being installed. Claudemir and Leto – our friends, ReVive employees and Aguazinha locals – recently finished these changes, so our next step is to plan the layout before moving in.

ReVive is doing amazing work, with not only the official launch of the fostering service in Olinda, but also the first family through training and ready to receive a child to foster. We believe that children belong in families and while it's great that organisations like Revive exist to provide a safe home to these children that need immediate care, the foster service is a step away from institutional care towards family integration.

Just a few weeks after the last link letter the north east of Brazil was hit with torrential rain and catastrophic flooding. Lives were lost and homes destroyed. We're happy to say that the rain has now long gone but there are still many people suffering from the consequences of the floods. We helped our church O Farol distribute aid packages to the community of V8 who live alongside a canal that burst its banks. We ran various fundraisers locally to buy food and essentials, but also had lots of donations, such as clothes, nappies and mattresses. Some of these people really had lost everything, which was devastating to see.

We're adapting to being back in a colder country! It's taking some getting used to but we're grateful to be well overall after falling ill several times earlier this year in quick succession. This started with Rosie catching dengue, followed by both of us having flu, and just when we thought our run of feeling unwell wouldn't continue, we tested positive for COVID-19! We're thankful to be out of that period. Particularly thankful to be well as we head into a new stage for us personally with the arrival of a baby Bayford due next April! We'll be back in Brazil at that point, so we'll have a little Brazilian baby. We're so grateful for the gift of new life and for a healthy pregnancy so far – please pray that this continues and for all that's ahead as we become three!

Thank you so much for all your love, support and prayers – we're so grateful for you all!

Much love and God bless,

Rosie and Stu



**Photos from top to bottom:** Celebrating and thanking our wonderful Community Market volunteers (Left to right: Rafael, Cláudia, Petrúcia, Stu, Zenilda, Rosie, Jeremias in front); Teamwork in revitalising the Community Market vegetable patch; Freshly painted walls and new seeds planted in the Community Market courtyard; Devastating flooding affecting the poorest communities most.



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