



Rosie and Stu Bayford

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What we do: Meeting people at the edges with the hope of getting alongside them on a journey of faith.

To our wonderful friends and family,

Well, it feels a lifetime ago since we were in the UK – perhaps because we’re about to meet a new life with the arrival of our baby daughter next month in April! We are very excited to meet her, while we naturally have a mix of all kinds of emotions as we prepare for life never to be the same again, and we miss our UK family and friends at a time when it’s difficult to be away. That said, we are incredibly grateful for the privilege of being parents and as the weeks count down, we are in awe of God’s miraculous ways!

Time in the UK

When we last wrote, we were back in the UK doing our CMS mission partner training while living with our cohort of other mission partners in training. We really enjoyed the training, though we found the workload in the week and church visits at the weekend very full on. We had hoped we might have seen more friends and family, but time was so pressed that if we weren’t able to see you, we hope you can accept our apologies. It was a much busier time that we had planned.

We were however grateful to spend the last week, including Christmas, up north with our families in Leeds before flying at the end of December.

Argentina

Some of you will know that CMS celebrated its first ever Latin America conference in Ushuaia, Argentina at the beginning of January. We were very grateful to be a part of this special event. Most of the Latin America people in mission were there – locals and Brits – and it was SO lovely to meet people in person, as the majority we’d only ever met on Zoom. Stu and I led the exercise sessions every morning – which varied from frosty runs to more of a gentle keep fit indoors when it was raining!

ReVive

ReVive continues to do its brilliant work with the many children we support. Both homes are full, and we work with each child as they plan to be reintegrated into family or adopted. We are involved in a mix of communications, IT, exercise classes and arts/crafts at the homes, while the other half of our time is spent in community development in Aguazinha.



Preparing to be three: family photo at one of the baby showers

Support Rosie and Stu Bayford :
churchmissionsociety.org/bayford

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



ReVive's new fostering service celebrated its first ever family in November! This has been three years in the making, involving changes to the local law. Please pray for this family as they navigate being the first foster family in Olinda!

ReVive has been given a little shop rent-free in the local shopping centre for a month between March/April. It will be a chance to raise awareness but also, we hope, to raise funds for ReVive – as many of you may know, the charity has struggled financially this last year. The arts/crafts we've made with the girls are now on sale – please do pray for us as a team as we take it in turns to be at the shop, selling and sharing the work of ReVive.

Mercado

We have loved being back at the market! The last few months, however, have been tough for various reasons; the food supply has not always been consistent and some of the families have had problems among themselves which has meant that the market atmosphere has not been as it used to be. We have met with our colleagues and volunteers to hear about these difficulties and are now trying to work out how to resolve a few of these challenges.

We are approaching the market being a year old, having started April 2022! We've learned a lot along the way, and if we're honest, at times we feel disappointed that it's taken so long to get to where we are, but we thank God for the privilege of doing this work – and know it's not about numbers, but individuals.

Sadly, Aguazinha (the community where the market is held) has become more dangerous in the last few months, with more gang violence in the area. Please pray for the community as the families all commented on how they feel they have to now stay in once it's dark, and it's not a safe place for their children.

Social

We have also been spoiled by our dear friends and colleagues with two baby showers! The first was a complete surprise hosted by my close friends here – it was very special, complete with afternoon tea and painting Bump, which is the tradition here.

The second was at ReVive, organised by some of our colleagues. We had cake and played some baby games and we left with a generous stash of nappies – another tradition here: everyone brings some nappies to the party!

Please pray for us in the run-up to our little one's arrival. Those of you who are parents, I'm sure can understand the mix of emotions, hormones, tiredness, and excitement as we try to prepare for such a huge adjustment – knowing life will never be the same again! We feel oh so grateful to be starting a family but cannot thank you enough for your prayers.

As ever, thank you for your love and support.

God bless,

Rosie, Stu and Bump x



Photos from top to bottom: CMS mission partner training cohort in the community house in Oxford; macrame rainbows Rosie made with the girls to sell at the ReVive shop; an abundance of food ready for the community market in Aguazinha; Rosie's painted baby bump at the baby shower



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup

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

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