



Katia Rocks

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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

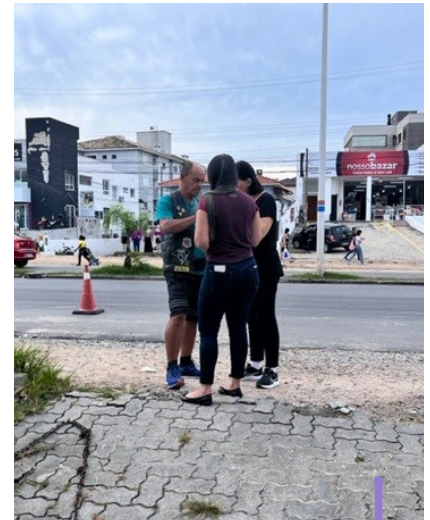
Dear friends,

Life has been busy and full of God's grace since we arrived back in Brazil on 11 March. The children were back in school on 12 March and they had quite a lot to catch up on as they had missed a month of classes. Praise God all is on track now and they have done well with their first school tests. I don't need to say how happy they are to be reunited with their friends again.

Since I've been back we've decided to restart our weekly evangelism at church. Every Thursday afternoon a group of people meet in the church for prayer and intercession and after that we do some evangelism in front of the church. It has been a very powerful time, we've been meeting some people who are very hungry for God and hearing quite a lot of painful stories. About a month ago, we prayed with two different people in the same afternoon who both suffered with depression and had tried to take their own lives. And they were so honest, opening their hearts and telling us how they'd been feeling. These are people who we've never seen before and this makes me think how desperate people are for God, friendship and support. We were so grateful to be able to pray with them and share God's love with them (both of them were already receiving professional mental health support).

Sundays have been good too. Some new people have been coming to church and the leadership team are connecting well, we have meetings regularly. I've been volunteering with the Cafe Solidário every Wednesday night. Família de Cristo have more men staying at the rehabilitation centre at the moment. And we still go out on Wednesday nights to offer coffee, a snack and prayer to the homeless and to everyone we meet on the streets. A few weeks ago, I spent some time talking and praying with Tatyana, a lady who unfortunately is a drug addict and had her three children taken away by social services. She is in pain and would like her children back with her, but she knows she needs to stop with the drugs and get a job to be able to see her children again. We pray that Tatyana can have the strength to leave this kind of life and get her children back.

On the first Sunday of May I had my first time at the female prison, and it was such a privilege! I've never seen so many people desperate for God. The night before, I prayed and asked God for something to share with them. And I felt God giving me John 3:16 and Revelation 3:20. So when I was there I could share those two verses with them, there were women crying and asking for prayer. I left that place so full of God and really pray and hope those women also felt the same. I pray they let God into their lives and meet him in a very



Evangelism in front of the church

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With each other
To the edges**



real way. For July there are some women who have given their names to be baptised in the prison, so if everything goes well we will be able to take part on this day with pastor Antônio and his team. Also a small group of people from church have done the Prisoner Journey course from Prison Fellowship International. My brother-in-law, Andy Walsh, who is also a CMS mission partner, has been in contact with the prison fellowship ministry in Brazil and has organised for us to be trained by them. He has already started to run the course in a male prison and hopefully we will be able to start it in the female prison at some point.

I've also been on the rota for preaching on some Sundays. It's not something I'm used to doing, but I have stepped out in faith, trusting God is leading me to do more things like that in the church. Last

Sunday I talked about 1 Thessalonians 5, and it made me reflect that despite other people's choices, we should always treat others kindly no matter what they have done to us or to other people, because one day we will only be responsible for our choices and decisions. So if I can do good and be kind to others, why not do so? At the end of the day we will only be accountable for our choices, for the good and bad we've chosen to do. "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else." 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I feel like God is moving, he is doing amazing things, and if we are not open to let him use us we are going to miss it. Whatever is happening with you, don't let it keep you away from what God is doing. His Kingdom is coming and meeting people, just keep your eyes on him and your hands and feet available.

In Christ, Katia Rocks

Please keep praying for all that is happening over here:

- For myself and the children, for God's protection and that we keep serving God with love and gratitude
- For Vineyard Floripa and every ministry, especially for our evangelism
- For Familia de Cristo and everyone who has decided to go to the rehabilitation centre
- For the women in prison, for transformation and salvation



Photos from top to bottom: Wednesday night with familia de Cristo; Sunday service at Vineyard Floripa; preaching at a Sunday service; volunteers at the church training for prison ministry



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

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