



# Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

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**Location:** Brazil



**What we do:** Connecting with people beyond the reach of traditional church, sharing the gospel in new ways and ministering to people's physical needs.

Dear friends and partners,

We are thrilled to share the latest updates and express our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support we have received from the community in the UK and all over the world. Your enthusiasm and commitment to us have been pivotal in driving the success of our initiatives.

At Du Park Indaiatuba, we have been diligently working to create a welcoming and enriching environment for everyone. Our events have become a vibrant place where children, families and individuals come together to enjoy a variety of activities. We have been trying to include fun-filled children's and family games, various sports, food, a short inspirational talk as well as opportunities for people to chat and share their stories.

It is encouraging that some families and children have become regulars at our events, but we have also had the privilege of welcoming unexpected visitors. One in particular was clearly an alcoholic and most likely a drug user. He stopped for coffee and cake, and after about four slices of cake, we'd won him over. This young man enthusiastically participated in all the games, helped us carry and put things away at the end of the day, but most importantly he was the epitome of happiness as he smiled and nodded, and danced to the music around him. It made us think of how many times we may "entertain angels" without knowing.

Not only do we want to offer engaging activities that foster creativity and learning, ensuring that our visitors have a memorable experience, but we want to be an example of what the Kingdom of God looks like. A Kingdom for all!

One recent highlight was a special treasure hunt where children embarked on a unique quest to uncover hidden treasures within the park. But instead of searching for physical objects, they were tasked with interviewing people and asking the question, "What is the treasure inside your heart?" The responses varied from cherished memories to personal possessions, highlighting the diversity of what people hold dear.

After an exhilarating hunt, we gathered to compare and reflect on the answers. It was a heart-warming experience as many participants realised that beyond material possessions, God is our ultimate treasure. This moment of reflection deepened our sense of gratitude and unity, reminding us of the spiritual richness that binds us together as a community.

Besides our active work in the ecological park, Marcio has been working with other leaders in Latin America



*Marcio as Captain Hook explains the treasure hunt game to the kids*

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to further develop pioneering mission in Latin America. Together we organised the first Latin American gathering which took place in April, in Indaiatuba.

It was an encouraging week of getting to know other people involved in pioneering work and to hear about what God is doing in different places. We were challenged and inspired to learn from each other and pray over each other's ministries.

In the middle of the week we had the privilege of taking the whole group to the ecological park to visit and to help us in one of our activities, entitled Send an SOS.

As we have explained in previous letters, there is a large group of teenagers who hang out at the boat/ship structure on a Wednesday evening. They come in droves, often blaring music, drinking, smoking, sometimes fighting, and the park becomes their territory in the evenings. Our group put out some tables and chairs with nibbles where the teens could sit and watch a live band playing, and a further four stations for them to walk through.

First of all, every teenager or passer-by was welcomed with a colourfully garnished, ice-cold, non-alcoholic drink and was invited to go to the next station. They were given the lyrics to the song Message in a Bottle by The Police to reflect on. Each participant then had the opportunity to write a message in a bottle or an SOS as a written prayer to God. They could then go to another table where we had prepared messages in a bottle from God for each one. Finally, everyone who wanted to could chat or pray with our volunteers.

It was so special to have people involved in pioneering mission work from all over Latin America joining alongside us in serving this young generation. Together we served over 150 drinks, we witnessed prayers being written and messages being received from God. But we were also given a glimpse into a sadder aspect of these kids' world. We saw some under the influence of drugs, we heard of kids suffering prejudice, one girl had just had an abortion, and another had been considering suicide the week before. How limited we felt!

We have received a multitude of positive feedback from people of various backgrounds, including Christians, non-Christians, and those of different faiths. This diverse support underscores the inclusive and welcoming nature of Du Park Indaiatuba. We are delighted to see a growing number of volunteers eager to join us in our mission. Many community members have expressed a desire to contribute their time and skills, helping us expand our reach and impact. This increasing willingness to serve is a testament to the community spirit embodied by Du Park Indaiatuba.

Please pray for creativity and discernment as we reach out to people and try to take church to where they are. Pray for strategies as we try to welcome new volunteers and for wisdom in how to include people in building the future together.

Thank you once again for your continuous support and engagement. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community at Du Park Indaiatuba.

Warm regards,

Marcio and Noemi



*Photos from top to bottom: Pioneering gathering in Indaiatuba in April; some young people getting a drink and exploring moving into the next stations; messages of God's promises shared with the young people*



## 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](https://churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante)

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

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