



Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

Update from the Edges 1 | March 2025



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



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and the church

Dear friends,

We're so excited to share with you how God has been working through CMS partners around the world. We're all helping to bring hope where people have given up on God and the church. We've heard from our friends Lindsey and Steve in Honduras about how Carlos, who had been hurt by church in the past, found a new perspective while working alongside their ministry. Our colleague Garry in Carlisle, UK, has told us about how a Community Shed has created space for seasonal crafts and a former prisoner sharing his faith. We hope you are as encouraged as we are by these stories!

We've been visiting churches in the UK for the past four months and have been amazed by the hospitality and welcome our family has received. Not only have we been able to share stories from Brazil, we have also been blessed and inspired by what churches are doing here! So many are active in the community, offering warm places for people to gather, praying for and being with people who go clubbing, hosting community Christmas events and tree competitions! How exciting to think of ideas that might work in our context!

Being in the UK in winter has led us to contemplate with awe the wonder of this season. The trees, although bare and devoid of lush leaves and fine canopies, are not really dead. They are simply resting, conserving their energy for the rebirth that is around the corner. It is a time designated by God for nature to be still, a slow but necessary part of growth.

It has made us think about the project in Brazil while we have been away. We wondered if our events would still run or if people would lose connection. It is easy sometimes to wonder if things have stopped growing.

The winter, with its stark beauty and tranquil stillness, offers a time for reflection. But, in the same way that God ordains the cycle of seasons, we are reminded that in the cycle of life, every ending is just a prelude to a new beginning. And often, where there seems to be no apparent growing, there is something happening. God is always at work, not just in nature, but in people's hearts as well.

We were thrilled that the people of DuPark community still reached out to one another while we were away. We have heard of people messaging each other, a volunteer pastor visiting someone with depression and a lady going out of her way to take someone to hospital during a family crisis. The community has also been



Pastor Fernanda is joined by an eager group of children for games and funny stories at the DuPark project.

Support CMS partners bringing hope among people who have given up on God:
churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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



helping Jana, who lost work and was struggling to make ends meet.

Jana is a young single mum who moved to Indaiatuba less than a year ago, aiming to give her son a better life. As she puts it, she moved, “with her son, her faith in God and nothing else”. Jana had done evangelism projects, but had never heard of something like the DuPark project.

When she first heard about it, she loved the idea because our goal is to take church to people in the park. Jana recalls, “When I arrived at one of the DuPark events, I felt really at home and sure that I wanted to stay”.

Jana explains that coming along to the DuPark activities and home group came when she was going through difficulty and transition. It helped her to meet people, make new friends and restart her life in Indaiatuba. She has felt strengthened through meeting other members of the community and finds great joy, along with her son, in participating as one of our local volunteers.

“It is something that we love to participate in together.... You feel so free to chat to people and interact with others, making them feel welcomed in a way you would never do in a traditional church.”

Jana especially feels the plight of people who move here without a network of friends and family. When Jana lost her job four months ago, she really felt her faith being tested. Members of the community reached out with offers of support, advice and help. Members got together to help with food shopping, and a family gave her temporary jobs to help provide for her son.

Even now, Jana feels her faith being strengthened. She has said that God is “creating testimony” of his faithfulness. She has seen her son’s faith grow as they see God providing for them. People’s kindness and God’s faithfulness bring a renewed sense of hope. How encouraging to see that even if we are not a church within four walls, we can still be a community where there is love, generosity, hope and so many other things growing.

Some wonderful news for us is that the city council of Indaiatuba has approved the reforms of the boat structure. Thank you so much for your prayers! Work started a few weeks ago with cracks in the walls being filled, walls painted and other things patched up. We pray for the council to expand our permission from using the space to store equipment to hopefully using the space inside for further activities.

How encouraging knowing that God the Creator’s hand directs the seasons, bringing growth to every leaf, branch and every heart seeking him. May God’s kingdom come and may we bring hope to those around us!

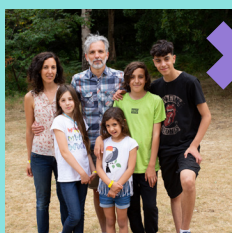
As we prepare to go back to Brazil please join us in prayer for:

- ▶ Transitions and moving, and for our kids as they adjust to hot weather and culture in Brazil.
- ▶ New team members in our leadership team, as there have been some changes and some dear colleagues have had to move.
- ▶ Our son Giovanni who is finishing his equivalent to A-levels and plans to return to the UK in June for further education.
- ▶ Jana, that she will have a more stable income to provide for her family.

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: Marcio and Noemi sharing about the DuPark project in Faringdon; Jana and her son love interacting with people and welcoming them to our events at DuPark; friends join us for Giovanni’s baptism in the UK; two of our most faithful volunteers welcome people with warm smiles, serve food and pray throughout the day.



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and church

We’ve been encouraged to hear stories from others who are part of our wider area of work. In Honduras, Carlos had a change of heart working with a Christian ministry, and in the UK Garry Ion reports on how Carlisle’s Community Shed is sharing skills, community and Jesus. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

Please note that opinions expressed in updates 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 update 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).