



Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

Update from the Edges 2 | August 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



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people

Dear friends,

We're thrilled to bring you the latest updates straight from the heart of Indaiatuba. This letter is a testimony to the continuous progress, unexpected challenges and the inspiring stories happening at the edges. We hope that you'll be as inspired as we were to read about CMS pioneer Fiona Mayne. Her story of finding faith and doing church over tea and toast in Somerset, England, is eye-opening and really creative. And Andy's story of his work in Brazil, where hundreds of prisoners are meeting Jesus, is incredible. We're excited to share how CMS partners around the world are making a real difference.

We returned to Indaiatuba in March after a trip to the UK. It's now the middle of winter in Brazil.

Winter is difficult for people here, who are used to temperatures of 37°C. But in this time, where people tend to stay home and feel more closed off, God's creation warms the city. Indaiatuba is full of ipês, winter-flowering tropical trees like giant bouquets of vibrant colour.

Winter was on our minds as our group of volunteers met to plan the theme of our monthly big event, we thought about winters of our lives and souls. We agreed on the theme of "the love that warms us." We will have several novelties this month like hot chocolate, a candy-making workshop for the children, a puppet show and some new family games. We will give out free hugs and "love notes" from God. We're praying that God will use us to warm the hearts of our volunteers, members of our community and that many others will feel touched by a message of God's love.

Over the past months God's generosity has blessed us in many unexpected ways. We received donations of bags of costumes so we can put on an unending range of plays! (I wonder what talented actors God is going to bring our way?) We've been given a puppet stage and several puppets, and a whole football kit with balls and colourful training bibs. We might need to brush up on our football skills.

The presence and dedication of our volunteers continues to be a gift. We feel like a group of friends now, with a real sense of community. One of these special volunteers is Isabel.

We met Isabel when we first moved here and were looking for a house to rent. She asked us, "Where is



Our sons, Giovanni and Nathanael, treat the families to some live music as they sit around tables sharing food

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your project going to be? To the north or the south of the boat structure?" She explained to us the imaginary line dividing the park between the affluent and the less privileged sides of the city. Isabel was the translator, or ethnographer, who described this central area of the ecological park. This was crucial for us in our discernment process.

Isabel is more than a neighbour, she's a friend. She is a warm-hearted middle-aged lady with a strong sense of justice and an enormous heart for children. Last December Isabel's husband passed away, and when we returned from the UK in March, we

found her deep in grief. As we tried to comfort her, we invited her to our house to give us some tips on our craft ideas for our pirate themed event. As a result, Isabel decided to come and volunteer for the first time.

This is what she says about the Du Park project:

"When I asked you what you did for a living last year, I hadn't really understood. It is something you learn over time. Now I understand. My favourite thing is that we all got together to decide what the craft was going to be and we got to make the pirate things for the event. I came to your house and we all worked together."

I asked Isabel what impacted her the most. She remembers noticing a little boy, "He was filthy, but he thought the craft was amazing! He struggled to communicate and it was really difficult to understand what he was saying, but he loved painting!" She pauses, then continues with a huge smile, "His favourite colour was black and he kept painting again and again. At the end, not only was he quite covered in black himself, but the whole craft table was black as well!" Isabel continues, "That is why I have volunteered ever since! Because of the kids. They love getting their hands dirty and creating things. It seems like a novelty for them, as if they don't get to do it often."

When asked what her hopes are for the future, Isabel answers, "I would love to see kids participating even more! They are the church of the future. They are learning what church is through playing and creating, not by someone just telling them. What's important", she says, "is the message. Through play and craft, they understand the message."

How amazing that Isabel, who is not a church-goer, is grasping what church means, what it is to be a community, and the importance of serving others and sharing God's message of love.

Join us in seeking God's heart in prayer:

- ▶ Pray for Isabel to continue to be impacted by the love of Jesus.
- ▶ Ask for creative ideas as improvements on the boat structure are almost finished, and we hope to start further activities there.
- ▶ Praise God for his encouragement and direction felt by our steering group who meet every 15 days.
- ▶ Ask God to comfort the many people who ask for prayer for loneliness and mental health issues. Some of them are carers and have no respite.
- ▶ Our eldest son Giovanni returned to the UK in July for a gap year as an intern in a church. Pray with him as he seeks God's direction.

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: Jana and Noemi opening one of our events, inviting people to join in the fun!; praying for God's protection and presence to be with us before we begin our activities; playing a game is a great way to get children to talk about their emotions; it seems that few kids have the opportunity to do art and craft activities at home, so these have become a huge hit!



Sharing the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

It's so encouraging to hear stories from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In England, Fiona is pioneering creative ways of connecting with people who aren't in church. And Andy's story about prisoners in Brazil finding Jesus is incredible. Read more and get inspired by more stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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