



Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

Update from the Edges 4 | March 2026



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,

Isn't it amazing to know we belong to God's family and that we can be a part of what he is doing around the world, through each one of us and through CMS as well? We want to share stories of other CMS work too! We hope that you find time to read about Johanni's journey in Honduras – from street life to full life. Johanni's life changed direction when she met CMS mission partners who helped her connect with a Christian mentor and attend school. She describes how most girls her age in her community aren't in school, and that she's so happy she is! You can find Johanni's story linked at the bottom of our update.



A view of our community settled getting ready for a quiz and games

And we're excited to write to you with our latest update about our "open-air church" in Indaiatuba, Brazil! We really felt God blessing us as 2025 drew to a close. The year ended for us with a lot of activities, including our annual Volunteers' Breakfast in December. We had nearly 40 people sharing breakfast inside the boat, remembering what happened in 2025 and celebrating what God has done for all of us in the past year, and how we saw people being touched by his love. There was a huge sense of gratitude for how God helped us to reach those who are beyond the reach of traditional church.

In October, we celebrated Children's Day. We had teenagers from a church in Santo André come help us have a colourful festival day with games like "pie face", silly races, theatre, and a free popcorn stall. At the end of the day, all the children received a recycled or donated toy. There was so much joy on their faces! The teenagers also stepped out of their comfort zones and shared about God's love with people walking through the park. Not only was it an encouragement to see them so willing to share their faith, but we know that God's Spirit is at work, bringing growth to each seed that was planted.

In November, we were touched by the testimony of Raquel and her husband. One of our community members who comes to DuPark sporadically because of mental health problems invited her neighbour Raquel and her husband to come along. They spent the afternoon with us in the park, and then a couple of our volunteers asked if they wanted prayer. They asked for prayer for a family member, a little girl who was in

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hospital with swelling and in a very serious condition as the doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong. Our volunteers prayed for the little girl, and a couple of days later Raquel called to say that the swelling was gone, the lab exams were normal, and the little girl was perfectly well and had returned home. It was so encouraging not just for their family, but for our volunteers to see the power of God's work through a simple prayer of faith. **Please continue to pray for Raquel and her husband, that they may come again and increasingly come to know the God who heals.**

December was a highlight for our community! We had special decorations, traditional Christmas panettone, and we tried a couple of new things. We had a quiz for the very first time and we asked questions about Jesus' birth. The families loved it! One grandmother was so pleased that her teenage granddaughter had participated. She had been trying to convince her to go to church

with her, but she refused. She said that although they weren't in a church, she was so grateful that the church had come to the park and she was able to see her granddaughter interact and learn about the meaning of Christmas.

We also trialled a "live nativity" play. The youngest children had made sheep masks, and proudly held up their artwork to play the sheep. We asked the parents and children who wanted to act out the Christmas story to come and put on costumes. We had props, colourful kings/wise men outfits, and even a donkey mask! There was music in the background for each scene as a narrator told the story, while parents and children of all ages helped bring the Christmas story to life! A lady with special needs and her family stayed with us all afternoon just so she could make her sheep mask and wear it during the Nativity!

I will never forget her smile and I've wondered ever since... how many nativities had she participated in during her life? How often do we as children get to participate in the "important roles" in our plays at school? And as we grow older, do we sometimes feel that our part is too small or too insignificant? It was beautiful to see everyone working together, drawn by this beautiful story of a God who came so that we could belong, we could all participate in his kingdom, and we could all play a beautiful role in the story that he is writing!

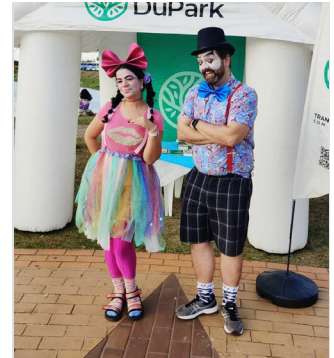
We ended 2025 with gratitude and have begun the New Year with much enthusiasm!

Please pray

- ▶ For everyone that has heard about the love of Jesus in the past year
- ▶ For Isabel, our neighbour and volunteer who had a stroke in February and has lost a lot of her mobility
- ▶ For DuPark Teens, a new outreach that aims to build relationship with the teenagers that hang out at the boat on Wednesday evenings
- ▶ For community development workshops that will start in March to help our "members" grow, blossom and improve the community together.

Thank you for all your prayer and support!

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: 35°C weather – cooling off with water games!; clowns made Children's Day festivities so much fun; our four wise men prepare to go on stage with their gifts; some of our Nativity actresses in the stable



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In Honduras, mission partners are providing mentoring for children who are likely to drop out of school, or not receive any education. They are introducing them to education and to the love of Jesus. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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

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