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Update from the Edges 5 | July 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,

We hope that this update will encourage you in your faith, just as we are encouraged in ours when we read updates from other CMS partners discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus. Linked at the bottom of our update you can find a reflection written by Andy Roberts – CMS's CEO – about the changing shape of mission and how true success means stepping aside to let others lead. You can also read a thought-provoking piece about the essential influence of migration on mission.

We are so thrilled to share with you what God has been doing so far this year in Indaiatuba, Brazil! We have had such colourful and eventful months since our last update. People from various church backgrounds have told us they had been inspired by DuPark. One pastor, after volunteering with us, said, "I have never thought of God's kingdom like this, I had never heard of an 'open-air church', but having served here today, I think I understand a little more of what this kingdom is supposed to be like." How encouraging!

We started the year with some novel themes including "navigating the new year", where we talked about having a God who is with us in our challenges, and "discovery of Brazil day", where we asked our community to name positive things about Brazil as well as all the talents of each individual.

Art has become such an important part of our celebrations. In January we invited local artists Alejandra and Vitoria to paint during our event, and the results were so impactful! As we talked about facing our trials, their paintings of a lighthouse and an anchor really resonated with the message that God is the One who is our help as we steer through the challenges we might be facing this year.

For Easter, everyone participated in an immersive play that took us to "Jerusalem" on Palm Sunday and then to the last supper. After "Jesus" washed the "disciples" feet, we served food to all the tables and welcomed everyone to participate in the Eucharist. How unifying to focus on important themes of Jesus' ministry – the table, sharing the bread and how Jesus welcomes us all.

During this celebration, Vitoria was also painting. An artist friend of hers happened to walk by and stop to chat. "We have an extra canvas," she said. "Do you want to join me?" And so, over the next two hours he produced a beautiful painting of Jesus holding a lamb. "I haven't been to church in ages," he said. "I have never been given the opportunity to do something like this." This young man left feeling so recognised and welcomed. Isn't it beautiful how God's table is open to all of us?



Vitoria shares through her artwork how God has been her anchor over the years

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



One of the most touching incidents happened in March. One of our volunteers felt prompted to donate a large amount of clothes and volunteer to trial a clothes donation stall that month. The same week, we received contributions of clothes racks, hangers and more clothes from another church. So, we understood that the Spirit was leading us to give this initiative a try. The first day was very impactful to those volunteering at the stall because they experienced the joy of helping people find items they desperately needed. Then, our volunteers got teary-eyed as they witnessed something unexpected.

A man and his family who were walking through the park saw the clothes booth. He asked what we were doing and why. Suddenly, he started to take off his brand-new tennis shoes. Everyone thought he was going to try on another pair of shoes, but he said, "I'm donating my shoes," and he walked away in his socks! Not only

is it extremely rare to see someone walking barefoot, but to give away a brand-new pair of shoes is practically unheard of! What a beautiful example of God's grace and generosity was witnessed by so many of us that day.

In May we had some important visits. A missionary couple from Norway lead a workshop for around 80 people from different churches and cities. The workshop, Use Your Talents, is used by churches all over the world to reach people in their communities in creative ways. We saw many people inspired to use their God-given abilities, to be imaginative in their contexts and actively share God's love beyond the church. We are so hopeful that new ideas emerge to bless local communities and especially DuPark!

We have been helping to establish a network of pioneering people and projects across Latin America. Through this, exchange visits have been happening this year across pioneer initiatives, to promote growth and inspiration. DuPark received visitors from Peru, including mission partner Anna Sims, Argentina and Chile.

The group participated in a series of events including visits to the skatepark, prayer walking, contributing in a service at a tattoo studio, sharing stories and inspiring our volunteers, and serving with us at two DuPark events. The most stunning things we did with their help was an immersive prayer station inside the boat for people to interact with, as well as holding an art evening that hosted nine artists painting canvasses live in front of the boat.

We are so grateful for these opportunities to work together and learn from each other! And you are an important part too, so we thank you for joining us with your support and prayers.

Please could you pray

- For the members of our community who are struggling to find work and provide for their families
- That the new ideas resulting from the Use your talents workshop may develop into creative ways for God's love to be shared
- For DuPark Teens as we meet on a Wednesday evening and explore starting a discipleship with a group of artists

Thank you for all your prayer and support!

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: For artist Alejandra, "navigating the new year" means keeping your eyes on the lighthouse; volunteers help people find the shoes and clothes they need; the inside of the boat was transformed by Anna Sims into an interactive prayer space; Peruvian artist Martin Yopez drew Christ, the carpenter who changed the story of humanity.



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

We love to hear from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to church. Read Andy Roberts's reflection on his time with the charity ReVive in Brazil and hear his thoughts on how mission needs to keep creatively changing. And be challenged by a thought-provoking piece on the role of migration in mission. Read and learn more about creative mission at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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

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