



Rosie and Stu Bayford

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What we do: Meeting people at the edges with the hope of getting alongside them on a journey of faith

Dear friends,

We do hope you're doing well! Life is busy as ever and yet we see God in the big things and the little things. We saw a beautiful mural recently which reminded us of God's promise to give us rest even when we're feeling exhausted. We really can trust in him and lay down our heavy hearts and burdens, and he will carry us – with a smile.

Ottelie turned one on 22 April, when we were in fact down in São Paulo at a CMS pioneer hub gathering with other Latin America folk pioneering new projects. We had a fun week away, meeting and sharing with mainly locals. Despite being in a new place with new people, Ottelie was well celebrated and a family we know down there arranged a little surprise cake for her, which was lovely! We then celebrated with a big picnic in the park with friends here when we were back in Recife.



"Come to me, you who are weary, and I will give you rest."

Community market

We thank God for two years of the community market on the same day as Ottelie's birthday! In this time, we have served 35 families, including 70 children, and distributed more than 22 tonnes of surplus or donated food. Week in, week out we have met together, come rain or shine, to chat, grow as individuals and have fun.

The market has always been about not just food but the community that it provides. We thank God for every moment the market has been through – the highs and the lows!

With the turn of the year, we said goodbye to some of the families whose situations had improved for a variety of reasons. This opened up space to take in more families with greater need, all of whom have children, so it's even more crazy and fun than before! We have started using a different room for the social space which works well as the children can play in the middle while the mums and ourselves can have coffee and a snack in a circle around them.

Since our last link letter, we have celebrated both Christmas and Easter at the community market, which gave us the opportunity to give out hampers for each family. At both events we had the bishop and the pastor of Água Viva church come to share the Word. It was a joy to have them share the gospel, and we joined together in worship and praise, celebrating the greatest love of all.

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



We do ask for continued prayers for surplus food as we try again to rally some local supermarkets, and for continued unity and connection between the volunteers and families.

ReVive

The first ReVive house (for girls aged 5-18) is as full and busy as ever. January is the summer holidays here and they always enjoy trips out and different activities from usual. Week to week, we're there with various hats on; Rosie does exercise classes for the girls, Stu is always being asked to do/help with IT things and we're both involved in their communications, particularly UK comms!

The second ReVive house (for children aged 0-5 years) closed at the end of 2023, marking the end of an era and the start of a new one. As the fostering service

develops, the idea is for new children to be taken in by foster families, rather than being placed in the houses. The fostering team did more training for new families last month and continue to try and raise the profile of this new service.

Life

We've had a rough journey with health so far this year... flu, COVID, Stu had pneumonia, Ottelie had a UTI and various sickness bugs – all since January! Any of you who have lived overseas will know that being ill without family to help out is extra hard, and we've definitely had our moments of despair! But that verse I mentioned earlier keeps us going. Matthew 11: *Come to me, you who are weary, and I will give you rest.* We have been finding God in the least expected moments, as ever, encouraging and cheering us on.

Ottelie also started at nursery last month! She will be in every morning Monday-Friday, which has already made a difference. Please pray for her health and protection as she starts here. As I write this, she is full of cold and asleep on my lap. Despite the bugs, she does love being with other little people – she's a sociable little bean! – and we love the Christian ethos of the school.

Some of you may have seen in the news the terrible flooding in the south of Brazil which has left over 150,000 people displaced from their homes, 100 dead and over 100 missing. Please pray for the region, the nation and the powers that be as they try to recover from such a tragedy – which, with more rainfall predicted, is still ongoing.

If you don't already follow our monthly updates, please do get in touch with us at hello@thebayfords.com and we'll happily add you to our mailing list to get more regular news.

With love and thanks,

Rosie, Stu and Ottelie x



Photos from top to bottom: Easter hampers; Ottelie's first birthday party; sharing the Easter message at the market; Ottelie at nursery



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Stories from the edges: Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. Go to churchmissionsociety.org/stories

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