

Wonderful St Barnabas Family

We hope you're doing well as ever – and enjoying the summer months and long evenings. Living so close to the equator, the sun sets about 5.30pm every day here, so we can't complain about the weather here (though we are now in rainy season!) but the UK seasons and long summer days are really special.



Beautiful sunset over Olinda

We're doing pretty well. Ottelie is more settled at nursery and we're so grateful for that. She has picked up various bugs (which we know is normal!) since starting but she's enjoying it, and we are enjoying it too! Our mornings feel much more efficient without our precious girl to entertain - though we always look forward to pick up and a hug, which she gives the best!



Ottelie with her backpack going to school - so grown up!

Lovely Ottelie is teething with her molars and struggling with these, especially in the evenings/at night so prayers that she will feel better very soon much appreciated!

Last Sunday I spoke at our church which was a challenge for sure! I can't say I've spoken many times at church, and never in Portuguese, where a preach has to be over 30 mins to count for something! But I felt privileged to be asked by our pastor Manoel who has become a good friend too.



Check out who's watching in the background!

Community Market

We're starting to see exciting changes within the Community Market – deeper relationships and opening up. We had a meeting with the volunteers last week discussing the vision and it was really encouraging to hear that they have dreams for what 'could be' too. You may remember we started some workshops some time ago but the market went through a lot of changes and they came to a halt. We are hoping to restart these again so prayers for this would be brilliant.



Market Fun!

Very sadly, one of our new ladies Mikaelly (started in the new year) has recently been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She is just 20 years old and has two little ones, one of whom is almost exactly the same age as Ottelie. It's a very sad situation and her medical prognosis isn't good, so please keep her and her boys in your prayers.

The reform of the market room continues little by little and we have a new tiled floor which looks so much better! One of the men from the market said he could lay the tiles and we thought it would be a good opportunity and employment for him. When we saw the final result, I confess that we were little disappointed. A few of the tiles were cracked and some of the work was pretty messy BUT God reminded me why we chose him and not someone else, and together we've done a fair job scrubbing it up... it has a story!!



The tiled floor has smartened the room up and makes it much easier to clean!

We recently were given a donation of 30 prams from the local shopping centre which was a wonderful gift to be able to give to so many of our mum's and even some of their friends! We try to visit a new supermarket or bakery every week to ask about new partnerships, and some recent ones have felt promising, so please pray that something comes of these conversations!



Some of our fab mums with their new prams

Revive

This same shopping centre is the same one where Revive runs a pop-up shop from time to time. We have the store again this month in June – a way of raising funds and awareness. Prayers for this much appreciated!



Even Ottelie has been helping out in the shop!

We recently had a vision meeting at Revive too, dreaming about what's ahead and looking to the future. As we move towards foster care, Revive is changing direction and it's important for the team to be aligned.

Prayers for our sweet girls at Revive appreciated as ever. They have recently started a new sewing class which they are really enjoying, and continue with school and all the various activities they are involved in already – including exercise with Tia Rosie!



Making exercise as fun as can be for the teens!



Sewing class with one of the girls

We recently had the new judge for Olinda to visit. The judge has a huge influence on the future of the girls as his say goes, so he can decide who goes back to their biological family, and who doesn't. Sometimes his decision isn't what Revive would choose but because it's the law, we have to go with it. Prayers that he acts in the girls best interests and really takes the time to understand the complexity of so many of these cases – and that he remembers, that behind a name is a girl, whose life he can change for the better.

Prayers for R and A the two sisters from casa 2 who are in foster care and had started transitioning into an adoptive family but it's not worked out. Please pray for them and the team as a new adoptive family is found.



Prayers for the sisters

In happier news, K still continues her Judo and passed her test last week meaning she's moved up another belt. She is an inspiring young lady!



K passed her test and is onto her next Judo belt

Speaking of UK summers at the beginning, I will finish with something else we miss about the UK – yummy nostalgic food! We had some neighbours for an English afternoon tea this weekend and we made cheese scones, cucumber and cream cheese sandwiches and a victoria sponge of course! The sandwiches didn't go down too well but the cake was a hit.



Our neighbours asked why it's called a Victoria Sponge ... apparently it's named after Queen Victoria who ate a slice of this with her tea every afternoon!

Sending love, prayers and some Brazilian Victoria sponge your way...

Rosie, Stu and Ottelie x

Some prayer points...

- For Ottelie at nursery and with continued teething
- As we start up workshops that the families would find them engaging beneficial.
- Pray for a miracle for Mikaelly with her ovarian cancer diagnosis, and for her two sons.
- Give thanks for the pram donation and for the latest step in the reform with the tiled floor.
- Pray for the Revive pop-up shop to be able to raise funds and awareness
- Prayers for the relationship to build well between Revive and the new judge
- Pray for sisters R and A as their adoption fell through