



Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti

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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.

Dear friends and partners,

Travelling light

When was your last house move or transition? Remember all the packing, sorting and cleaning for the move, followed by unpacking, not knowing where things are and finding your way around a new neighbourhood? We all know that moving house is a major event in our lives, and up near the top of the stress list. As some of you know and have probably experienced, there are also a lot of emotions that go into sorting, letting go of items and saying goodbye to neighbours and the home where so many memories have been made.

During our move, we found ourselves reflecting on Bible passages that deal with moving. We wondered about how the Israelites felt as they had to pitch up tent at night and pack up everything in the morning before they set off again. How hard that must have been to do on such a regular basis! We were comforted by Psalm 34:7, that says, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." How comforting to know that God himself is "camping" with us and is present in our everyday situations regardless of how messy or upside-down they may be.

In September we moved into House 244, the CMS community house that we are living in as part of our training. We feel so blessed to be welcomed by the host family and to meet the other five mission partners in training. So, what is community life like, you may wonder? In the morning it may mean bumping into people making breakfast, navigating your way around a large kitchen island trying to get what you need while not getting in anybody's way. After a few weeks it becomes like a dance, and you begin to work as a team.

At other times during the day you might find us having a cuppa together while having deep theological conversations. The kids might be outside jumping on the trampoline, doing homework or sometimes interacting with one of the adults. We have learned so many interesting things as well, such as how to spin wool, how to make wax wraps and so many new recipes!

The best part of the day is dinnertime, when we sit down for a community meal together. On Wednesdays we take turns telling our testimonies, and it has been such an enriching experience to get to know these other mission partners, gain insight into their different cultural views, and hear the creative ways that God has called each of us into his Kingdom.



The group eating at House 244

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



After half-term, we find ourselves now halfway through our training; and as we look forward to our final move, to Brazil, God has helped us to reflect on “travelling light”. In Luke 10, when Jesus sent out the 70 into the neighbouring villages, one of the instructions he gave them was to not take extra clothes and supplies. They were to receive the hospitality of the people of peace and not worry about their belongings.

The lesson we feel God is teaching us is that this is a time for us to get rid of clutter, to leave a mindset of worry for physical things and to concentrate on what is most important for this phase: our training! We sense that God has been using this time for us to learn flexibility, humility and openness to one another. We are also letting go of our old “knowledge” and experience and making ourselves open to the new. As we go in faith, we hope that this will help us to go out into the ecological park in the same way as the 70 went out.

We are so encouraged to have met and visited our link churches and have felt such connection with all of you. As we meet some of you to say goodbye, we want to say how grateful we are for the friendship and the role that each one of you has in our lives. We are blessed to have so many of you praying and encouraging us as we prepare to go to Brazil.

Could you pray for:

- ▶ Our studies, as Marcio and I work on our presentations for the end of the year
- ▶ Our children, for them to feel loved and a sense of God's peace in the midst of transitions
- ▶ Our country, Brazil, for peace and for political stability

From the kids' perspectives

- ▶ Evangeline: “I like living in the community house because it’s big.” When asked about how she feels about Brazil: “I feel excited because I’ve never been there. “
- ▶ Isabella: “It’s nice, we’ve never really had to share a house before. You get to know about different people.” About Brazil: “I’m going to miss my friends here, but I’m going to make more friends there.”
- ▶ Nathanael: “Living at House 244 is fun because the house is big, spacious and there’s a big garden. There are loads of kind people living there.” About Brazil: “I’m really excited ‘cause the weather will be nice and I would love to go fishing.”

Prayer points:

- ▶ Please pray for us as a family, for us to be able to create spaces for us to have family time together, and to really listen to how our children are doing
- ▶ Please pray for our country as there have been reports of fraud in the elections and the nation is really divided. We pray for unity among believers and that any corruption would be revealed

Marcio and Noemi



Photos from top to bottom: Beautiful candle used during a worship morning at House 244 to reflect on community; visiting a church in Weymouth; our future team for the project at the ecological park in Indaiatuba; our family



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