



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.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:12

Dear friends and family,

Before we get further into our letter, we have some **news to share**. As we look towards the end of 2023, **we want to thank you wholeheartedly** for supporting us – your prayers and gifts are incredibly important in helping us to serve here. With a heavy heart, we need to share that at the moment, due to increased living costs both for us and our supporters, **there is a significant shortfall in our funding**, which puts our work at risk. And so, we come to you for further help. If you are not currently giving, would you be able to start a regular gift? And if you are giving, would you consider increasing your gift? **If everyone reading this letter gave an extra £15 per month, that would make a huge difference**. If you can help us close our funding gap, please go to churchmissionsociety.org/mnc, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form if you have received this letter through the post. (For our supporting churches, if you are able to give a further gift please contact churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org.) We understand this might not be possible – **please know that we greatly value your support**, and thank you for letting us share our challenge with you.



Handing out treats on Children's Day

Over the past few months we have been working in the southern part of the ecological park, in front of a neighbourhood known as Tancredo. We have been present to play, do activities, tell Bible stories and share food with the kids who are often left on their own. We've started meeting their families and have felt a burden to remain in this area. Drug use is rampant and happens in broad daylight as the park is often a place of trafficking. Some of the children who play with us have parents who are users themselves. Many of the families are broken, with a parent in jail, mums raising children alone, children who have to live with other relatives, and children suffering from neglect.

Our hearts have felt so heavy as some of the children have opened up to our team members. One girl said

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



to us, "Please don't go, why can't you stay here more? I don't want to go home. There's nothing to do there." Another pair, a brother and sister, walked up to a member of our team and said, "Please can we go away with you in your car? We've decided that you can be our new mother!"

As we practise being a presence in the park, we serve cake and coffee for the passers-by and some of them stop and open up about their journey of homelessness or addiction. The children's families have started coming down to the park and participating in the activities. We had loads of fun celebrating Children's Day in October and seeing parents joining in the sack

aces and games. Some of them have said to us, "This part of the park is forgotten, nobody cares for us. What the Du Park project is doing for our kids is really important."

We long to see change, to see a safer park and to see people free of addiction. Please pray with us that we can grow in our relationships with these families. The team plans to carry out an appreciative inquiry to discover the assets within the neighbourhood and help them understand what they can do to take responsibility for change. How exciting to take an active part in facilitating this community development process!

Most of these families don't go to church. A few do, but have a hard time understanding how to apply what the pastor says on a Sunday to their day-to-day lives. We hope to be church to this group and that as we experience God's presence together in the park, and learn more about the good news, that this will bring transformation to this community.

We're also in the process of brainstorming and preparing a project for the boat structure that sits right in the middle of the park (500 metres from the Tancredo neighbourhood). There is a huge number of teenagers and young adults who like to hang out there, drink and smoke weed. We would love to be able to use the boat to create a safe space where they can chat about different topics, talk about their mental health, explore spirituality and where we can encourage them to be agents of change in their communities.

We pray that God will use all of us to be agents of his peace and to take his presence wherever we go in this season. We feel so blessed to have you as part of our Du Park team, encouraging and supporting us! We wish you a season filled with God's gracious favour, his enduring love and perfect peace! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

The Ciechanovicz Family



Photos from top to bottom: Parents join in the races too! What a blessing to see the families interacting! It's Brazil, so someone is always playing football; face-painting is a huge hit here, so we do it often, and the kids get to paint too; kids waiting for a hula hoop game to restart look onto the basketball court where the older kids are playing



Can you help?

Right now, Marcio and Noemi are facing a shortfall in funding, which puts their work at risk. Will you support them today? Go to churchmissionsociety.org/mnc, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form. **Thank you!**



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

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