



Marcio Ciechanowicz 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,

Greetings! "...And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires." 2 Peter 1:4

How good it is to begin a new year full of God's peace and hope! We remain encouraged in anticipation of the works that God has prepared for us in 2024. We pray that you feel the same reassurance!

This year began with a lot of planning and organising for our first sports event, run with the support of the city council sports leaders. This event was strategically organised in front of the boat structure in the park that we have been praying about for so long. We had around 25 volunteers, not just locals, but some joining us from Santo Andre, and even one person visiting the project from the UK!

It was so uplifting to see families interacting, playing together, enjoying healthy snacks and meeting new people. We had ping-pong tables, a volleyball net, a football shootout, Spikeball and an obstacle course area for smaller children. A prayer team supported us throughout the event and there was a spirit of peace and fun in the park. How amazing to use sports as a means to share God's love! We are waiting to hear back from the council for permission to run the same type of event once a month from March to June. Then in July, when the Brazilian winter sets in, we will look at doing the events earlier in the day.

Once a fortnight, we all walk down to the boat to be a presence and to pray. We have found out that on a Wednesday evening the area is packed! There is a night market with lots of food stalls, families walking by and loads of teenagers. On these evenings the boat is the main hangout place for these young people. They often gather in a huge group, blaring music, smoking weed and drinking. We have also spotted some of the pre-teen kids we have played with in the Tancredo neighbourhood among this older crowd, and this is very concerning as they are so easily influenced at this age.

With these activities happening near or around the boat, we continue to pray that God will raise up people who will favour us and give us permission to use the boat structure itself. We would need partners to help



Marcio prepares instructions for all the eager volunteers for our sports project in January

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with inside renovations and painting, redoing the public toilets and refurbishing. We are dreaming big, hoping to use it as a community hub where the youth can come to be heard, and from where different projects and initiatives for the surrounding community can flourish.

We'd like to continue seeing the kids and families of Tancredo once a month. We are having meetings with a local NGO to talk about how we could join forces to serve the families in that area. One initiative is to start a community development project. We hope to bring together a group of parents and active community members, listen to their stories, understand what the community's strengths are and people's opinions of what the community needs and what gifts and talents they have. Together we can think of bringing the community together to bless the families there and look at improving the people's health and wellbeing.

Thank you very much for your prayers for our family. The boys had what seems to have been dengue fever in January and they are slowly regaining their strength. Praise God for them not having had a more serious disease and to have gotten well again. Three of the children have switched from the Brazilian school to home learning, so pray for this adaptation as well. We are elated that Giovanni, our eldest, after a huge period of struggling to adapt in Brazil; has made the under 18s Indaiatuba city basketball team. Giovanni says, "I really feel that God has put me where he wants me and I have been able to share my faith and just in the last month, one of my teammates has asked to join me in a youth service at our church."

Please pray for a conference that will be happening here in April, where leaders from CMS, local pastors and people from other Latin American countries will be coming together to think about pioneering mission in a Latin American context. Pray that we will have God's direction as to what he is pioneering in this region. We have started a home gathering on Fridays with some of the new people who are joining the project and we appreciate prayers for our growth.

Thank you so much for being with us in prayer and for your support, these both encourage us so much.

God bless you all,

With regards from all our family!



Photos from top to bottom: Spikeball is new to many, but is very dynamic and gets people really involved; volleyball was one of the favourite sports and we had a full "court" for most of the afternoon; we would like to mobilise local young people to repair the inside of the boat and contribute to making this space "theirs"; Giovanni unknowingly taking the CMS logo to his basketball practices



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