



Andy and Kati Walsh

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Location: Brazil



What we do: Working with local church partners in Florianópolis, helping people in challenging contexts to find hope in Jesus

Dear friends,

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/walsh, 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.



Eva enjoying life at school

As we conclude our second year and reflect on all that has taken place we continue to pray, discern and follow God's lead for the year ahead. During the past few months we have concentrated our efforts on work within the prisons as we continue to sense from the Lord this is the area of focus. We recognise a real hunger for the true gospel and for genuine repentance. I believe this is why we are seeing so many people making the decision to put their faith in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

On each occasion that we have contact with the prisoners, as we minister the Word or share the gospel, pray and baptise people, we feel so encouraged by what we're seeing the Lord do in people's lives. We really feel privileged as mission partners to be involved in such a fruitful ministry. Through the collective efforts of our team, Pastor Antônio advised us that 105 people have been baptised this year so far across the prisons in Florianópolis.

As you can imagine, this inspires us to take further strides and make further inroads into the prison system to establish a ministry that has greater and longer-lasting impact. It's for this reason we have established the eight-part discipleship course which has been fully attended and engaged with (12 men on each occasion) in prison wings B and C of the adult male prison. I understand that as many as 20 of the 36 men in wing B meet

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



together regularly to study the Word, pray and worship the Lord, which we personally think is a testament to the work the Lord is doing in their lives. Clearly, we want to do much more. We'd love to help lead informal church services in the prisons in future. However, we feel we're a long way off from this due to the various restrictions imposed on us in terms of access and what we're permitted to do once inside.

For now, we await further instruction from the prison's social department to get going again with the discipleship course while the other prison wings undergo building maintenance. In the meantime, there's lots of other work going such as outreach and evangelism in the male prison, the adjacent male penitentiary and women's prison.

The other small step we recently took was to apply for remission (a small reduction) of sentence for those that complete the discipleship course. Hopefully once approved, we sense that this will ensure our course is on an equal footing relative to other training courses delivered in the prisons such as maths, Portuguese, etc. In turn, once this recognition is legally approved, we hope this leads to take-up of our course in other prisons.

To date, we find other prisons are not receptive to us at all and in some cases, the offer to provide the course in the women's prison has been refused. We struggle to understand this because the focus is rehabilitation of people's lives. As a result we return to prayer for the Lord to cut the red tape and open the doors. I've just picked up news that the director of the women's prison has moved on, so we will try again imminently!

Recognising that our mission objective is to disciple new believers, we have withdrawn from the work in the some of the drug rehabs that are further afield. We simply are unable to walk alongside these folk as regularly as we'd like due to the long journeys involved. So Kati and I, at least for the foreseeable future, will be attached to a drug rehab centre which is more local to us called Familia do Cristo which is in fact run in partnership with Vineyard Floripa, the church where we are based. Again we sense this will mean we can forge stronger relationships with residents and engage in some more sustainable ministry.

The following 12-minute video was presented at the annual CMS Adelante conference held on 26 September in Birmingham and provides a comprehensive update in terms of our progress, upcoming challenges and vision: <https://youtu.be/TZJDQYMWIxs?si=tmKE3H7mW0JHle6o>

In the upcoming period we really want to be making headway with securing access to the Case Regional, (prison) for young offenders, secure approval from the women's prison and the penitentiary to start the discipleship course where there is huge demand with over 1100 people serving longer term sentences. We'd therefore appreciate if you could join us in prayer for breakthrough into these areas in this upcoming period.

Finally, to keep you advised, we're making our first return to the UK since becoming mission partners next year. We're very much looking forward to reconnecting with our supporters and meeting up with our family from May to July 2024. So Andy will be in contact soon to share our availability during this period and when we will be in your area.

Once again thank you for all of your support and we look forward to seeing you again next year. Every blessing in this upcoming Christmas period.

Andy and Kati



Photos from top to bottom: Faith-sharing at Familia do Cristo; baptising Jorge, who completed the discipleship course; Kati, Pastor Antonio, and one of the women recently baptised in the prison



Can you help?

Right now, Andy and Kati are facing a shortfall in funding, which puts their work at risk. Will you support them today? Go to churchmissionsociety.org/walsh, 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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