



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



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Dear friends,

We hope this update finds you well. As we reach the end of January 2026, we're grateful for the opportunity to share some encouraging developments from our life and ministry here in Florianópolis. We remain deeply thankful for your prayers, friendship and partnership, which continue to sustain and strengthen us as we have recently celebrated our fourth anniversary as CMS mission partners in Brazil.

One of the most significant developments over the past months has been the progress within the Vineyard church here. Until recently, the church met in a small commercial space of around 80m². As the congregation grew, the space became increasingly confined, often feeling very full and raising genuine concerns about safety and capacity. We started actively exploring relocation alternatives, despite the considerable financial and logistical challenges that would bring.

In an unexpected and timely turn of events, both neighbouring tenants on the same floor simultaneously handed in their notice prematurely, releasing their units earlier than planned. This amazing answer to prayer created an unexpected opportunity for us to expand into those spaces and remain where we are. With the support of external funding, we were able to begin removing internal walls, transforming what had been two adjacent commercial units into a more open and welcoming environment for worship and community life. Remaining in the same location has provided important continuity for those newer to faith, while also giving the church confidence to invite others and grow without losing its sense of familiarity and belonging.

At the end of January, we also began refurbishing a third area, with plans to make this open-plan as well. This space will initially support our children's ministry and, looking ahead, hopefully create an area for new initiatives focused on younger people. As a leadership team, we sense that this is a stretching but healthy season for the church, and we're encouraged by the way people are stepping forward with faith, generosity, and a growing sense of shared responsibility.

In December 2025, we celebrated the baptism of five people, a joyful moment for the church community. Daniel, one of those baptised, completed the prison discipleship course earlier in the year and is now working full-time in the local community. Seeing lives shaped and redirected over time – across different contexts of church and prison – continues to affirm the call we sense to serve faithfully in both spaces.

Andy had the opportunity to be in England from mid-September through early October. That time proved to be deeply encouraging. He was warmly received by some new church partners who are now supporting us as



Eva proudly holding her certificate, celebrating her educational milestone

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a family. It was a real gift to reconnect face to face, share stories from Brazil and sense genuine enthusiasm for what God is doing here. We're especially thankful for those who have generously resourced this recent season of growth with fundraising events, and for the many expressions of encouragement that came alongside that support. We feel very privileged to be working in partnership with you all.

On a more personal note, December also marked the end of the school year here in Brazil. Eva took part in her school's end-of-year ceremony, celebrating her progress in learning to read and write in Portuguese. Along with her classmates, she received a small graduation certificate – an important milestone in Brazilian school culture. To our surprise and delight, Eva was chosen to represent her class by reading a short message aloud in Portuguese to commemorate the occasion. This took place on a stage in front

of around 150 parents and family members. We couldn't have been prouder of her confidence and progress – she's certainly learning the language (and has a far more authentic accent than her dad)!

In November, we travelled to Curitiba, in the neighbouring state of Paraná, to attend a Vineyard conference for the south of Brazil. The weekend was both refreshing and fruitful. We appreciated the chance to connect with leaders from across the region and to build meaningful relationships within the wider Vineyard family. Andy was particularly encouraged through time spent with Pastor Luke Geraty from Red Bluff Vineyard in California, who has been supportive of what's happening in Florianópolis and generously shared a leadership training course he has developed. We're now exploring how this material might be adapted and used to invest further in local leaders within our church, as part of our commitment to developing healthy and sustainable leadership.

Alongside church life, the prison ministry continues to be a central focus of our work. On 13 January, Andy began another cycle of the Prison Fellowship's discipleship course, this time with 12 men in the Presídio Masculino de Florianópolis. The course runs twice a week in the afternoons, and the group has engaged well from the outset. Some of the men are navigating extremely complex and painful circumstances. One young man, Giovanni, is only 21 and facing the consequences of a serious first offence. He has been going through a very fragile season, and on several occasions has come close to losing hope altogether. Andy has been supporting him pastorally, alongside the course content, as he comes to terms with the impact of his actions on his own life and on his family. Walking alongside men like Giovanni underlines just how vital it is to engage people with the gospel, and with the reality of God's truth, love, and mercy – particularly at times when the weight of mistakes seems overwhelming.

Looking ahead, we will continue to engage the leadership at São Pedro de Alcântara penitentiary. With a new prison governor now in place, we're hopeful of restarting conversations about establishing a regular space for informal church services within the prison. Even if this begins in simple ways – perhaps in open courtyards and under less-than-ideal conditions – we're committed to persevering. Brazilian law makes provisions for the facilitation of religious services within the prison system, and we're currently awaiting our security clearance for the year ahead before scheduling further meetings.

We'd love to share a video about our prison ministry which we recently created with a professional photographer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLgzdwQqiBk

Thank you, once again, for walking with us. Whether through prayer, encouragement, or practical support, you are part of what God is doing here – in church gatherings, preaching on the prison courtyards, leadership conversations, and family life. We're deeply grateful.

With love and thanks, Andy, Kati and Eva



Photos from top to bottom: Daniel, a former student from the prison discipleship course, being baptised in the sea; alongside Pastor Antonio, engaging in evangelism and baptising inmates at São Pedro de Alcântara; Andy outside Beverley Minster during his UK visit, strengthening connections with supporting churches



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In the UK, CMS's Pioneer Mission Training programme is equipping people to respond creatively to the Holy Spirit beyond the boundaries of traditional church. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope