



Katia Rocks

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Location: Florianópolis, Brazil



What I do: Through a church I helped start, I encourage people, particularly women, to connect with Christ

Dear friends,

Today is a cold but sunny day here in Bristol, UK. The children and I arrived in England on 10 January and will be here until 7 March. For us this is a time of visiting and spending time with our supporting churches, friends and family. Also a time to rest and for quiet times with the Lord. Last year was a difficult year with some hard moments, but my heart is full of hope for a fruitful year.

Since we arrived in the UK we have been visiting churches on Sundays, sharing about our work in Brazil and about how God is guiding me forward. It's been amazing to reconnect with people who love us and believe in and support my ministry. People who are also taking part in God's mission in distant lands.

We also spent two days in Northampton taking part in the people in mission conference with CMS. It was a time for reflection, worship and meeting other missionaries working in other parts of the world.

While I'm in the UK, the leadership team of Vineyard Floripa continue to put hard work into the Sunday meetings. Small groups have stopped for the summer and will start back again in February when things start to get back to normal after the summer holidays.

We're being overseen by Brazil's national Vineyard leader, Milton Lucas. He lives in São Paulo, but he comes to us every two months, and we also have online leadership meetings every two weeks with him. When Milton is in São Paulo, CMS local partner Marcelo Jacobs leads the church. Marcelo has been the worship leader and part of the leadership team for many years and he is being prepared to be the pastor.

In November, during one of Milton's visits, we had three people baptised. It was such a joy and privilege to be part of the event. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and we all went to the beach and they were baptised in the sea. During Milton's visits we also have meetings and training with leaders of the church.

Since October I've started to volunteer in a project that our church supports. It's called Familia de Cristo (Christ's Family), and they have a recovery centre where the homeless and people with addictions can be supported to recover and find a new life.

We go out every week to the streets of Florianópolis to distribute hot drinks and food, and also to talk and pray with the homeless. Since I've started volunteering there, I've heard so many beautiful testimonies of restoration and new life in Jesus from the people who are living at the recovery centre now, and also from



Baptism at Vineyard Floripa

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To the edges**



those who have already left it and are now working, or are preparing to lead churches or even get married. So many amazing stories that left me in awe of what Jesus is doing. We human beings can plan, organise and do things, but only Jesus transforms. And seeing those people completely recovered and with their hearts full of gratitude for Christ is like seeing Jesus' miracles happening in front of us.

When I'm back from the UK I will also start doing the women's prison visits. That's been a long procedure waiting for a green flag allowing for a start, but in December I finally got my prison card which allows access with the team who are already doing this ministry in Florianópolis.

I'm very excited about what is ahead this year. I feel like God is really making everything new for myself and my ministry. I'd like to share a verse that's been in my heart as I transition to this new phase: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

I know despite all the excitement for this new season, it will also be very challenging. And there will need to be a lot of preparation, prayers and fasting before I go into the prison or to the streets. But I know God is telling me to be brave because he is with me.

Please keep us in your prayers. Prayer points:

- For Joanna and Davi going back to school when we go back to Brazil. For good health and good friendships.
- For Vineyard Floripa, that it will keep growing and that people will continue to flourish in their gifts and callings.
- For the Vineyard leadership team, that they will stay connected to each other and keep hearing God for the next months and years. Pray that they will be wise and sensitive to what God is doing around us.
- For myself in my new phase of ministry. For strength and wisdom, protection and guidance to follow Jesus to those on the edges.

With thanks in Christ, Katia



Photos from top to bottom: Sunday service at Vineyard Floripa; Família de Cristo project – Wednesday night – going out to the streets giving out hot drinks and food. Here praying for some homeless people; sharing at church in the UK; Davi getting a hug from Fay, one of so many amazing people who pray for us



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