

# Hannah and Tim Latin Link

Serving Marginalised Communities in Brazil and South Sudan

Dear friends,

On 12<sup>th</sup> June we will be moving to Custódia. We have found a 3 bedroom house on a street which several church members live on close to the centre of the town. We had been reading the story of Naboth's vineyard before looking for the house and looking for somewhere with good neighbours! Pray for us as we leave Gaibu. There will be many goodbye services and tearful farewells. It is important to make time for friends too as it is part of the process of helping the community (and us) to let go and end well.

Recently there have been nationwide strikes & blockades by lorry drivers and others mainly over fuel costs, leading to fuel & food shortages. The government made some limited and temporary concessions, rejected by most grassroots drivers. Because of the government's austerity policies, concessions will result in cuts elsewhere in the budget. We had to postpone 2 nights away to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Pray that the most vulnerable are supported at these times, and for a just outcome.

**Car, fireworks or gunshots?** (*Parents may want to read this before showing to young children*)

During a Sunday evening service this month we heard the sound of gunfire close by. People started running in the street outside and a young woman ran into the church in desperation. Her friend had just been shot dead in front of her. Hannah was able to sit with the young woman. Pr Ivaldo called the police and Hannah stayed with her for a couple of hours.

Homicides, mostly drug-related, are a regular occurrence in Gaibu, and although church members have been involved before, we live in a safer street and have not been present at the time. We are careful about the way we talk about violence as we don't want to spread fear, and stylising and glamorising violence is one of the ways poor & black communities are criminalised.

I (Hannah) was quickly aware that we are not Brazilians and have a different perspective to others. I wasn't sure at first whether the sound was gunfire, fireworks or a back-firing car! Some church members were overcome by fear, and talked about the incident in a similar way to the sensationalised TV news here, which was not helpful to the woman who had seen her friend shot. We were relieved that the church was the place the woman had run to: it should be a safe place and shelter for anyone in trouble.

Custódia is a much safer community, where people say you can leave your house door unlocked whilst out (we won't!).

Love & solidarity, Tim, Hannah & Rita Nyanabyei x

June / Junho / Ker '18



Above: Talk on Noah's Ark for CADI's bday  
Below: Highlights of being a missionary kid:  
seeing sea turtles hatch and the beach



**Please be praying:**

- For a good move on 12<sup>th</sup> June and settling in period in Custódia. Pray for good friendships and for Rita to adapt well.
- That the most vulnerable are supported during these uncertain times, especially by the church, and for a just outcome as negotiations continue.
- For Gaibu to be transformed into a place of peace and love, and for church members to be without fear. Pray fear of violence would not stop people coming to church.
- For a just outcome to the strikes.
- Thanking God for those supporting the Abyei Teacher Sponsorship Programme, and for others to join us so it can be extended from next year and to more schools.
- Thanking God for Fr. Biong's improved health and return to South Sudan. Keep praying for complete healing and rest.

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