



**Andy and Rose Roberts**  
CMS mission partners  
**Brazil**

Link Letter no. 4 March 2012

## Dear friends,

We hope that you're all well and enjoying the first signs of spring! We hope also that you enjoy flicking through our latest link letter and hope to see as many of you as we can over the next few months.

## Family news

Firstly, Rose and I are thrilled to announce that we are expecting the arrival of our first son/daughter due sometime in September! Rose is doing well and is just about coping with the morning sickness! Do be praying for her, especially as we'll be doing a lot of travelling over the next few months. We thank you all for your kind words and prayers.

We'll be back in the UK on 'home ministry' from the end of March to around mid-July. We're really looking forward to being back and having the opportunity to catch up and update you all. Check out the current dates at the end of this link letter to see if we're coming to a church near you – it would be great to see you! Do be praying for us in all the travels.

## New directions

No, we haven't started a 'Glee' group! Rather, our work and ministry are taking on a slightly new direction. It was a difficult decision but, after a lot of thought and prayer, we decided to step back from our work with My Father's House so that we can pursue our long-held dream of working with young girls who are being sexually abused or forced into prostitution.

Those of you who have heard us speak will remember that we always talked about the horrendous situation of young girls being forced into selling their bodies or who are being sexually exploited (sometimes by members of their own family!). UNICEF estimates that there are around 500,000 children involved in the sex industry in Brazil with another inestimable number suffering systematic abuse within their own home. The NE of Brazil is particularly bad due to the fact that since the

## Street girls



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**The MFH boys at a water park**

2001 Asian tsunami, it has overtaken Thailand as the 'capital' of Sex Tourism. Indeed a government study on children forced into prostitution in Recife found that the majority of them are aged between 5-14 years old with the average age of their first sexual encounter being just 10 years old... remembering that this is the average figure!

The incredible fact is that there are no Christian projects currently working with these girls in Olinda. There is just one government run project which works with boys/girls mixed. It's sad that there are many projects working with boys but next to none working with the girls – a depressing fact that is repeated in many other places in the world.

So, we're going to go for it. It will take a lot of time and work but we believe that this is the direction that the Lord is leading us in. We've met with the Child Council and Justice Department who were very happy to hear of the new plans and have given us their support.

We're in the early stages of setting up a UK charity and we'll be looking to really make progress with this whilst we're back in the UK. On our return to Brazil in July we'll begin the long process of setting up an NGO so that we can bring much needed help and support to these girls.

**Youth bible study**







## Teenage and youth group

We're not going to be able to do this on our own; we need people who also share this vision to help, so please do get in touch if that's you...

We thank you all for your continued support.

### My Father's House

There are around nine boys currently in MFH and are all doing well. We had a great end-of-holidays trip to a water park the other week, which the boys really enjoyed. The boys are now back at school so do be praying for them and for the workers as they seek to help the boys and their families.

### Living Waters Church

Even though we're stepping back from MFH we'll continue to be based in Living Waters Church where we'll continue our work with the youth. Our group is back into full swing after the holidays and we've had a great time reading through James. During the carnival holiday we opened our doors to 15 of the young people from church and to some of our nieces and nephews. We had a great time together and I managed to get most of them addicted to Monopoly! Do be praying that, during our absence, the group will continue and grow.

Speak Up! English course is about to complete its first four-

month course. The students have really enjoyed it and have made some good improvements. Hopefully we'll be able to start again when we return to Brazil.

The Football Ministry continues to go well and Andy will miss the fun and games whilst in the UK.

### UK Tour

These are our current confirmed dates – more will come in so do check our blog [www.andyandrose.posterous.com](http://www.andyandrose.posterous.com) for more details!

- April 2 – CMS Head Offices Oxford
- April 15 – Manchester – Emmanuel Cheadle Hulme
- April 22 – Newcastle
- April 24 – York
- April 27-29 – Shipley – St Peters
- May 1 – Stranton
- May 2 – Blackpool – St Johns
- May 6 – Pudsey
- May 13 – Layton – St Marks
- May 20 – York – HT Heworth + G2 + St Michael le Belfrey

- May 27 – Lepton – St Johns
- May 29 – Oxford
- May 30 – Gateshead – Holy Trinity
- June 10 – Eastbourne – St Johns
- June 13 – Newcastle – Jesmond Parish Church
- June 17 – Birmingham – Coleshill
- June 24 – London – St James Blendon
- July 1 – Manchester – St Andrews Eccles
- July 8 – Birkdale – St Johns
- July 16-19th – All Nations College

### Prayer Points

- Give thanks for Rose's pregnancy and pray for safety and comfort.
- Pray for the new Girls' Project, for wisdom and guidance and for the logistics of setting up a charity etc. Pray that the needed support will come in.
- Pray for the youth at Living Waters Church that they may continue to meet in our absence.
- Remember the boys and workers at MFH.
- Pray for safety in our upcoming travels and as we speak about our work and vision for the future. Pray that we may also have time to rest and spend time with family and friends!

With love,

*Andy and Rose*

### Contact Details and Useful Info

I thought it might be worth adding these details on the end... they might come in useful!

#### Project Address

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#### Our NEW apartment address

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#### Phone Numbers

You can call me for 2p/min from an English landline using the following number 08444621621 then just dial one of the following numbers.

**Project** – 00558134312255

**Our apartment** – 00558134322814

**Andy's Cell** – 00558191962959

**Rose's Cell** – 00558191596058

**Bank Details:** Project's Charity Account – Service of Hope Charity. For info please contact Roger Atkinson on [roger\\_atkinson@yahoo.com](mailto:roger_atkinson@yahoo.com)

