



# 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,

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 107:1). With a heart full of gratitude, I write this letter. Today is Easter Sunday, a beautiful, sunny day, and despite it being autumn, the temperature is 25 degrees Celsius. This morning we had our Easter service at church, and afterward, we gathered for a lunch where we continued to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Each person brought something to share for food, the children had a time to hunt for Easter eggs and the adults were able to share their lives over a meal. Part of my work at Vineyard Floripa is leading the women’s group. Last month, we had our first 2024 coffee meeting. Eighteen women gathered at my house for an afternoon of praise, testimonies, smiles and tears amid cakes and coffee. In today’s world, women often find themselves overwhelmed with work, household chores, children, and routines, where days pass by quickly and there’s often no time to slow down and spend time with other women to relax and share life. But this was an afternoon filled with the presence of God, where we could all return to our homes feeling lighter.

In February, after many meetings and attempts, we managed to meet with the director of the women’s prison, and we received a positive response to start the Prisoner’s Journey course with the inmates. It has been a time of many attempts, prayers, and waiting, but now, after the approval from the penal judge for the course to be conducted, with the right to sentence remission for the inmates, it was authorised both in the male penitentiary where my brother-in-law, also a CMS mission partner, conducts the course, and in the women’s prison. We are very happy with this victory because Vineyard Floripa has a strong focus on mission and reaching out to those on the margins of society. The course is scheduled to begin in the women’s prison this April.

“Praise the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever” (Psalm 136:1). And I sing praises to God, for his care for my life, for his care for my family. In December 2023, after experiencing some abdominal pain and undergoing a colonoscopy requested by the doctor, I was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma in my intestine. The tumour was already 10cm in size, so I needed to undergo emergency surgery. It was a shock, a great mix of emotions, fear and insecurity about the future. Just after Christmas, on 26 December, I had the surgery, and the entire tumour was removed along with part of the intestine. Thanks to God, everything went well. After



With Joanna and Davi at Joanna’s 14th birthday in January

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



five days in hospital, I could return home and recover well. After further post-surgery exams, it was found that the disease had not spread to any other organs, and everything is fine, but the oncologist thought it best for me to undergo chemotherapy treatment for the next six months to prevent the possibility of the cancer recurring. I started the treatment on 20 March and everything has been going well. It's a mild treatment and hasn't affected my routine much. Just some moments of extreme tiredness, but nothing more than that. Everything is fine. God has been faithful and has healed me. I am very grateful for this additional care from God for my life and for all the support I receive from each of you who cover us with prayers and also

support us financially because through the financial support that comes from you, CMS can support us with the health insurance we use here in Brazil, and because of that, I could have the surgery and treatment done quickly and by excellent doctors.

These are some of the recent events with us here in Florianópolis, and I would like to ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers. Please pray:

- ▶ for our health, that my treatment continues to be mild without strong side effects, and I can continue to follow my normal routine, between children, church, visits to the prison, and treatment
- ▶ for Vineyard Floripa church, and especially for the women's group: may there be good connection and growth in numbers but also in developing more intimacy with God and among the women, that we may be closer to one another and support each other, so that we can be stronger and more secure for our routines and all the support we give to our families
- ▶ for the discipleship course The Prisoner's Journey that will begin in the women's prison: may the women participating in the course have open hearts to hear the good news and receive Jesus into their lives. May there be transformation and healing in each one's life.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers

Love and blessings,  
Katia, Joanna & Davi



**Photos from top to bottom:** Vineyard women's ministry coffee afternoon in February; Vineyard Floripa Sunday service; children from church in front of a pharmacy after delivering chocolate on Easter Sunday; my sister and I after the meeting at the women's prison, standing in front of the gate as we are not allowed to take photos inside the prison



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