



# 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 Lovely Friends,

Greetings from Brazil! It's amazing and somewhat daunting how quickly this year has passed. Here we are again, anticipating the joy of Christmas. My children are a little bit older now, but they still eagerly count the days. Davi has been asking me every day when are we going to put the Christmas lights on, as we can already see some houses decorated for Christmas!

Over the years, Vineyard Floripa has remained a church at the heart of the community, grounded in the teachings of the Bible. We're committed to Christian values, and have a vision for raising new leaders and reaching those on the edges of society. We've worked hard to serve this community, even sometimes to the point of sacrificing time with our own families. When fully immersed in ministry, it

becomes natural to consider the church an extended family, leading us to be involved in every aspect, often bringing our children along, instead of having some private time with them. But I'm learning after a very hard time, to balance everything – family and ministry. Despite the sacrifices, it's incredibly rewarding to witness what God has done and continues to do in people's lives. The development of a healthy and genuine relationship with God within our faith community is truly amazing.

I'd love to share more about the fruits we are reaping. I am grateful for the time invested in nurturing a new generation of leaders for the church. Currently, Vineyard Floripa has a leadership team of nine people, of which I am one. These individuals, who joined the church in recent years, come from diverse backgrounds, having faced challenges in legalistic churches or relocated from other parts of the country. They all sought a church committed to following Jesus' footsteps in a healthy environment. Our journey has allowed us to walk alongside families and individuals with different stories, backgrounds, and commitments to Jesus and the church.

One such story is Diogo's. After spending time in prison for drug dealing, he found his way to Vineyard in 2016. Formerly a drug addict with a good job, he resorted to dealing to support his addiction. In prison, he encountered Jesus, and after exploring different churches, he found Vineyard Floripa through a friend. Diogo's transformation has been remarkable: he now owns a small food market near a favela (slum), using the opportunities to share his testimony and point people to Jesus. Diogo's life impacted Adriano, another former



Diogo (right) and Adriano have been helping with all the renovations that were needed at the new church building.

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

drug dealer who used to sell drugs to Diogo. Adriano was baptised in our church, left his past life, and is now devoted to serving Jesus. Both are integral parts of our church, trustworthy individuals who have grown significantly in their faith.

Vineyard Floripa continues to serve the community in Ingleses, providing a spiritual home for worshipping families and a place of healing for broken individuals. Importantly, it has also become a refuge for those on the edge of society, like Diogo and Adriano, who opened their hearts to God's plan for them.



As we approach the end of 2023, I want to express heartfelt gratitude for your support – your prayers and gifts are incredibly important in helping me to serve here. But unfortunately, with a heavy heart, I need to share that at the moment, due to increased living costs for both me and my supporters, there is a significant shortfall in my funding, which puts my work at risk. And so, I come to you for further help. If you're not currently giving, could you consider starting a regular gift? And if you're already giving, would you consider increasing your gift? An extra £15 per month from everyone reading this letter would make a significant difference. If you can help me close this funding gap, please visit [churchmissionsociety.org/rocks](https://churchmissionsociety.org/rocks), call 01865 787489, or complete the enclosed form if you received this letter by post. (For our supporting churches, if you are able to give a further gift, please contact [churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org)) I understand this might not be possible for everyone, but please know that I greatly value your support. Thank you for allowing my to share this challenge with you.



Blessings,

Katia, Joanna & Davi

**Photos from top to bottom:**  
*Church set up for a service in our new location; Joanna, Davi and myself having some quality time on a Sunday afternoon.*



## Can you help?

**Right now** Katia is facing a shortfall in funding, which puts her work at risk. Will you support her today? Go to [churchmissionsociety.org/rocks](https://churchmissionsociety.org/rocks), call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form. **Thank you!**



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