

# Liz and Sergio Vilela

Prayer letter, August 2016

[bmsworldmission.org/lsvilela](http://bmsworldmission.org/lsvilela)



Dear friends,

With 11 partner churches visited plus our home church, a family holiday, a family and friends get together, a Didcot visit, a wedding, a health check, Chloe's pre-school Summer concert, and other visits to friends and family...oh and a baby, we have really enjoyed our first Home Assignment. It was really good to be able to revisit some churches and make new connections with others. We were very well received and we thank each one of you for the support you give us as we wouldn't be able to do this work without you.

As we mentioned above, and many of you probably already know, we had a baby. His name is Joshua James and he was born on 14th May 2016 weighing 6lb 11oz. He came two and a half weeks early via emergency caesarean but we thank God that both Liz and Joshua are well and healthy. Chloe is being a very caring and protective older sister and we are enjoying adapting to now being a family of four. It was great to be able to visit Sergio's family in Brazil after two and a half years, which gave them an opportunity to get to know Chloe now she is older and also get some cuddles from Joshua.



Joshua

The A-ction Team.

We had the privilege of supervising another BMS Action Team from Oct 2015 onwards. They were a great team, getting really involved in all the activities

that were planned and also others that weren't in the programme. Here is a little insight into life in Mozambique and being in an Action Team:

## 1. What did you like most about Mozambique?

I really loved living in Mozambique and one of the things I think I liked the most about living out there was the people and the lifestyle. There was constantly something going on whether it was music from all over the neighbourhood, chickens running wild or our guard carrying a tree through the garden! People were very welcoming and always smiling which creates such a nice atmosphere.

## 2. What did you find most difficult?

One of the things I found the most difficult was the water shortages and the power cuts. It was very challenging to ration things that we take for granted and in abundance back home. Although it was also very rewarding because it taught us to be grateful when the power stayed on for the night or when we had water flowing into the tank that morning.

## 3. Can you share a significant experience you had while you were out there of seeing God at work?

As a team we had a lot of really great experiences in and out of projects. One of the places we really saw God working was at a football pitch near our house that we went to most evenings to play with the kids and the young people. It was a very beautiful place that offered great sunsets so we would sometimes just go and watch the sunsets as well. We really felt that this was a God project and that he led us there. We would go with a football and a skipping rope to play with them which God used to open other doors. We were given opportunities to pray with some of them. On one occasion I got the opportunity to pray with a young man called Augusto who was in his twenties. He had come to play football at the pitch when he was working on a building project in the neighbourhood and had enjoyed it so much

that he travelled across town on the weekends to come and play football with us. One evening he was sitting on the side and he explained to me that he had been to hospital the previous day and was not feeling well. I asked if I could pray with him and he was willing. This created a certain interest from some of the young people present that day and he was then silent for a while and looked very reflective. I don't know how he is doing now but that experience encouraged me in not only offering to pray for people but also praying with them. There were also other times where God gave me these opportunities at the pitch but I think the one that struck me the most was on our last night there when the children then asked us to pray with them before leaving.

#### 4. Why should anyone choose to go on an Action Team?

People should choose to go on Action Teams because it is an amazing experience to grow in yourself and in your relationship with God. It is a challenging year but more than that, it's rewarding.



*Us with the Action Team*

#### Novidades

As you read this we have probably returned to Mozambique and in the process of settling back in. As this next term of service begins, we are wondering what it will bring. There may be some changes to our roles, we are sure we will face challenges in the work and as a family, and we will have to readapt to a less comfortable environment. Challenges make us feel scared and uncertain, but it is good because it makes us trust and depend more on God, and this dependence creates a more intimate and profound relationship with God.

So our prayer for ourselves and for you also is that... "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13 (ESV).

Thank you to all of you who support us in some way. Here are some prayer points to help direct your prayers for us.

Prayer points:

- Give thanks to God for his provision while we have been in the UK and Brazil, and for a healthy baby
- For protection and good health for us as we return to Mozambique, especially for Joshua
- That we settle back quickly into life in Mozambique and for development in the work that we have gone out to do.

**Liz and Sergio**

If you would like to support Liz and Sergio by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](http://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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