

**Church planting in Portugal**

James and Heather Cochrane with the Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal

POWERPOINT NOTES

SLIDE 1 // Title: **Church planting in Portugal**

SLIDE 2 // **Cochranes**

Following several years as global mission workers in Brazil, James and Heather Cochrane and their two daughters moved to Portugal in 2008.

SLIDE 3 // **Porto sign**

After about five years working in the Algarve, they moved north to the city of Porto – to work as part of a church planting ministry alongside PCI’s partner Church in Portugal, the Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal, the ICPP.

The ICPP is a denomination that at that stage had only a hundred members in the whole of the country, with eight pastors on staff, but they had a real vision to plant new churches in the north of Portugal.

SLIDE 4 // **Skyline**

So, the Cochranes moved to Porto, rented an apartment, put their two girls into school and begin the work of church planting, with another couple from Australia, and over the next 10 years or so, they worked hard through outreach and evangelism.

SLIDE 5 // **James breaking bread**

They tell how the first years were not easy. They didn't see a lot of probably fruit for their efforts, but they are thankful that God was faithful. And thankful too because they knew folks here in Ireland continued to support them prayerfully, as well as financially, and over time, they began to see relationships build up, and the little nucleus of a church began to form.

SLIDE 6 // **Ordination**

A significant point came in early 2023, when three elders and two deacons were ordained and formed the local leadership of their small church plant,

SLIDE 7 // **Logo**

…and the Pedras Vivas church (meaning living stones) was constituted as a church of our partner denomination, the ICPP.

One of the first tasks that the eldership had to do was to find a new pastor. And they give thanks to God that they were successful in that search, and a pastor has been interviewed and the denomination has accepted him. The new pastor, Pastor Leonardo and his wife Daniela from Brazil are currently in the US where Leonardo is doing some post graduate study, but they plan to arrive in Portugal in June 2024.

SLIDE 8 // **Inside church**

The Cochranes share that one of the greatest joys of being involved in God's ministry and in church planting in particular, is seeing people's lives transformed, and especially to see Portuguese lives transformed. From their experience, many Portuguese are quite resistant to the gospel, so to see people who have been resistant, come to a saving faith is wonderful. For them it’s such a privilege to have been involved in that, and to see people changed and transformed.

SLIDE 9 // **Bible course**

Seeing the building filled and seeing local people coming to faith and being ordained into leadership was a blessing and a very rewarding experience for them, but also a very encouraging experience for PCI’s partner Church, who without the support of folks here in Ireland, financially and prayerfully, would not have been able to plant a church in Porto

SLIDE 10 // **Cochrane’s in Belfast**

Although the Cochrane’s work is finished in Portugal and they are now back in Ireland, PCI is committed to continuing to help fund the new church over the next three years through this time of transition.

James and Heather want to say a big thank you to you and all those congregations throughout Ireland who have not just prayerfully supported them in going overseas, but also financially through the United Appeal.

Slide 11 // **Global Mission Poster**

Without the United Appeal, without that prayerful support, of congregations across Ireland, PCI wouldn’t be able to send global mission workers overseas, to support people, churches and projects, in Europe, Africa, South America and the Middle East.

This is alongside the mission work here in Ireland, the training resources, events, support and countless other people and projects that you, through the United Appeal for Mission make possible. Together we are doing more.

Slide 12 // **UA Logo**

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