

James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



With Portugal reaching 85% of the population vaccinated we expect further relaxing of restrictions. This is welcome news and will enable us to resume small group ministry in homes and initiate a number of other outreach activities over the coming months.

We continue on home assignment in N. Ireland and have benefitted from the time we have had to rest and reflect. It has also been encouraging to visit congregations and report back. The girls moved into their student accommodations and classes began on 20 September. They are getting on well.

Back at Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV), we continue to have visitors each week, mainly from Brazil who are arriving in Porto. Over the years we have found that August/September/October months seems to be when many Brazilians arrive in Portugal: some will continue in CPV, others are visiting a number of churches to find where to settle. In October we will be beginning a new preaching series on Ephesians.

As we take time to think and reflect on the church planting project, we give thanks to God for his faithfulness. Four years ago we were just a handful of people, now we have grown to around 40 members and about 50-60 gathering on Sundays, even during COVID-19. About 70-75% of our congregation is Brazilian, 15% Portuguese and we make up the rest with one or two others of different nationalities.

Our prayer is that God would use this body of his people to be salt and light in the nation of Portugal, that as we live out our ordinary everyday lives in our workplaces, neighbourhoods, schools and cafes, the distinctiveness of our Christian lives, our words and witness would have a transforming effect on Portuguese culture and people around us. Pray with us for the nation of Portugal, for Portuguese people to come and know the Lord, for lives to be transformed.



Photo: CPV congregation:

Prayer points

- Continue to pray for Chris and Rachel as they lead CPV in our absence.
- Pray for small group and other ministries to be able to resume.
- As we continue to report in churches in Ireland, pray that they would be encouraged and prayer relationships strengthened.
- Pray too for our daughters as they study and as we prepare to return to Portugal.