

## James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



It is hard to believe that it is just two months until we leave Portugal for our sabbatical. Two months to finish up at CPV, to hand over all our responsibilities and to pack up our house. James is busy working with the Session. The statutes of CPV were prepared in April and the elders are now looking at the profile of the future pastor. There is still a lot to be done with the Session in the next two months. And, of course, work continues as normal. James will be preaching until the last Sunday in June, and we are both very much involved in all the ministries of CPV.

The small groups meet in five homes every other week. James is the leader of one of the five groups, but one of the members of his group, Eder, has agreed to take on the leadership of the group. We are encouraged by the number of our church families who support Graúdos e Miúdos, our family ministry. We continue to pray that non-church families would come and perhaps in summer period when we begin to meet in the park, it may be easier for this to happen. Marcela will be the new leader of Graúdos e Miúdos. The adolescents' work is encouraging even though numbers are small (about 6-8 young people). We enjoy getting together to study the Bible, eat, play and chat. We are very happy that Cris has agreed to oversee the work with the help of the two others in the leadership team. April has been a month of handing over, but it has also been a month of new beginnings!



## GLOBAL DISCIPLES *Go Deep Go Wide*

### MAY 2023

In April Heather began a new monthly women's ministry called ELAS (plural form of SHE). It was very encouraging to have around 20 women of all ages (20 to 62!) at our first meeting, which was a very informal afternoon tea. The leadership team presented the aims and purpose of the ministry (using the acrostic E.L.A.S) which is to encourage one another, connect with each other and with God, to bless and be blessed and to serve. We talked about the importance of discipleship and walking alongside each other in our journey of faith.



### Prayer Points

- Pray for the Session of CPV, for wisdom as they consider CPV's future pastor.
- Give thanks that we have identified new leaders for the different ministries – Eder, Marcela, Cris. Pray for them as they settle into this new leadership role.
- Give thanks for the beginning of ELAS and pray for the organizing team, under the leadership of Camila.
- Pray for us as we hand over responsibilities and prepare to leave Portugal at beginning of July. Pray for us as we deal with mixed emotions about leaving a church and church family that we love.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to have a sabbatical and pray for future ministry opportunities.