

James and Heather Cochrane

Location: Porto, PORTUGAL

Mission: Church planting



In November we began to visit members of Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) and visitors, and it has been encouraging to hear how God has been at work in their lives over the past months. It has taken longer than expected to visit each family and so we will continue with this visitation during the month of December.

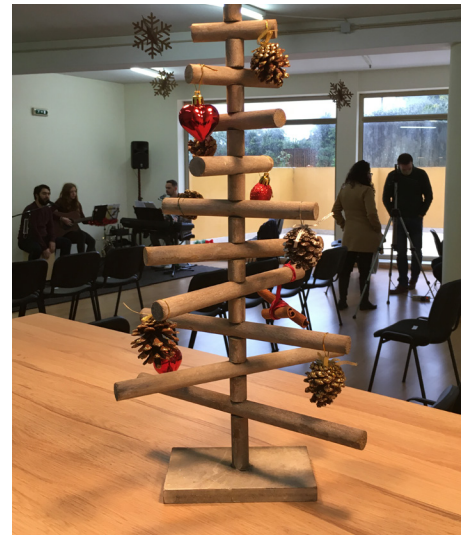
A few people have shown interest in becoming members of CPV and in February we hope to gather them together for a four-week membership course which will help them understand the context in which we minister, the mission and vision of CPV, our church structure and main doctrines. Approximately 75% of our congregation is Brazilian, with the other 25% from Ireland, Portugal, Angola, Guinea Bissau and Romania. We praise God for this rich mix of people who also come from different church backgrounds, but our prayer is that each will develop a burden for the Portuguese people. As they understand the reality of life and ministry within the Portuguese context, pray for their outreach and daily witness to this nation, that barriers will be overcome, and many Portuguese would come to know Jesus personally.

During Advent at CPV we will be studying four Christmas songs: the songs of Mary and Zechariah, the song of the angels, and that of Simeon. Pray that we might receive visitors over this Christmas period and that these simple messages about the greatness of God and his love manifested so clearly in the sending

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of Jesus, would impact lives. On 19 December, we will have our Christmas service and our music group leader is very excited to be able to lead a choir on this day.

We hope to recommence our small group ministry in January. We will study Paul's letter to the Galatians. We have identified potential leaders and homes in which to host three groups. Pray that, as we speak with everyone we have in mind, there would be an openness and willingness to serve God and CPV in this way.



Prayer points

- Continue to pray for visitation over next few weeks.
- Give thanks for the possibility of receiving new members in early 2022.
- Pray that we will be able to organise three small groups, even as we deal with the uncertainty of Covid-19.
- Pray for the Humphries' family as they return to N Ireland for home assignment from early December to mid-February.
- Give thanks that our daughters will be coming home to spend Christmas. They will be here with us for four weeks.