

James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



Easter weekend was an important reminder of what the Christian message is all about and the great need for the gospel message here in Portugal.

On Good Friday we had an informal gathering with a few songs, a testimony and a meditation on the events of Good Friday. We also enjoyed some food afterwards. It was so encouraging to hear Florbela, a Portuguese woman, share her testimony about how the Lord has changed her life. Florbela, her husband and daughter came to faith over a year ago. Like many in Portugal she was brought up in the Catholic tradition but in her own words "did not know anything about the gospel". She was never encouraged to read the Bible and lived in ignorance. When difficult times came in her life she didn't know where to turn and sadly she was pointed towards spiritism. For many years she dabbled in the occult but never found joy or peace. About two and a half years ago Florbela and her family walked through the doors of Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV). Ever since we have been meeting with them to share the gospel and disciple them. The difference in Florbela's life is visible and to hear her talk about the Bible and how much the Lord means to her is heart warming.

On Sunday we celebrated the living hope we have because of the resurrection. It was a joyful service. The CPV choir led us in two worship songs, we studied 1 Peter 1:1-9, and we received nine new members. Five of these were transferring from their previous churches in Brazil but four, including Florbela, her husband and daughter, were baptised and received as members upon profession of faith.

Florbela's story is a reminder of the great need for the gospel in Portugal and of the power of the gospel to change lives.



Supper on Good Friday



Florbela and family - baptism Easter Sunday

Prayer points

- Give thanks for Florbela and her family. Pray that they would continue to grow in their faith.
- Pray for Portugal which is in such spiritual need. Many have not heard the gospel and live in ignorance and others remain superstitious of the gospel message, believing it to be a foreign import and not something that they would want or need to embrace.
- Give thanks for the new members at CPV. We now have about 60 members.
- Pray that, with our encouraging growth, we would not settle to be an inward looking community of believers but that we would see the importance of being involved with God in his mission in the world.