

James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



It is now just over three months since we returned to Belfast. Following a few weeks to settle in we have been engaged in deputation since early September. This has been a welcome opportunity to visit congregations and supporters in various parts of the Island and we have been encouraged by the interest and support of so many. It has also given us a chance to appreciate the challenges and mission opportunities that each congregation faces in their own context. This period of deputation will finish in mid-November, and we will then move into a time of sabbatical.

During the past few years, Pedras Vivas has been blessed by the arrival of Brazilian immigrants. At the same time this brought challenges as we sought how to be a multi-cultural church rather than a church divided between Brazilian and Portuguese believers. This blessing and challenge of integrating immigrant believers into the life of the local church is something that many congregations in the PCI are also facing. As a result, we will use the sabbatical to reflect in more detail about how local churches can strive to be multi-cultural communities of faith.



GLOBAL DISCIPLES
Go Deep Go Wide

November 2023

We continue to keep in touch with Pedras Vivas and are delighted to say that three new deacons were ordained on the 15th October. The small groups, adolescents, women's ministry, and ministry for young families continue under local leadership. Please continue to pray for these ministries that seek to reach out and also promote discipleship within the congregation. A few weeks ago, the session interviewed two candidates to be the new pastor of Pedras Vivas and one of these has now been presented to the denomination for approval to call. Please pray for the various processes and permissions required over the next few months.



Prayer Points

- Pray for the ongoing process of seeking to call the candidate presented by the session.
- Pray for Rev. Luciano ("vacancy convener"), the elders, the deacons and the various members who lead ministries in Pedras Vivas.
- Give thanks for the opportunities to share with many PCI congregations during deputation and for the encouragement we received.
- Pray for the time of sabbatical asking that, as we reflect and study, God would clearly lead and guide us to where He wants us to be next.