Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

James & Heather COCHRANE

PORTUGAL

Location: Porto

Mission: Church Planting

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth…."
Ecclesiastes 12:1

We have written before about the challenges facing Christian young people in Portugal. It is very possible to be just one amongst a handful of Christians within an entire school and there are few opportunities for young people to meet with other Christian young people. This is because many of the churches that exist within northern Portugal are small and do not have many programmes for youth. Within our context of a church plant we have a small group of young people ranging in age from 10 to 17.

Last year we organised games' evenings for kids once a month. This was an evangelistic effort as we encouraged our church kids to invite their friends to an evening of fun, games and a short devotion. Unfortunately, although many invitations were given out, not many of our kid's friends came. We discovered that this was because of superstition and preconceptions that their parents had about an evangelical church. In their eyes we were considered a sect. This is the sad reality within Portugal and is one of the many spiritual barriers that needs to be broken down.

This year we have been meeting as a smaller group of young people. The aim is to build them up in their faith and we have been using Christianity Explored (Youth version) as our Bible study material. We also have time for games, chat and, of course, food. These evenings are hosted in the homes of our young people and have been a lot of fun. We still encourage the kids to invite their friends and at every meeting we have had, there has been a young girl who is not a Christian.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the young people of our church plant – Alana, Lucy, Yuri, Isabela, Joana and Carolina. Pray that they would grow in their faith.
- Give thanks for Joana's friend who has been at every meeting. Pray for her to understand who Jesus is as we study Christianity Explored together.
- Pray that spiritual barriers and preconceptions about evangelical churches would be broken down.