

James and Heather Cochrane

JULY / AUGUST 2022

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) has grown very quickly over the past year. Some weeks we have 80-90 people gathering on Sunday mornings. We did not expect this growth so quickly in the church plant as back in the beginning (2013) and we could never have anticipated the arrival of so many immigrants in Portugal. We are thankful to God for the way he has moved people around the world and for the vibrancy and richness this brings to our church body. We are also thankful for a few Portuguese visitors in recent weeks, and we continue to pray that CPV will be a missional community that seeks to be intentional in its relationships with non-Christians in the workplace, neighbourhood, sports clubs, etc.

With this growth, it has become necessary to begin to form a local leadership. We are thankful for four men who lead up the biweekly small groups. James has gathered these men and one other to join with him as he leads a leadership course, which looks at the qualities of a spiritual leader, the role and vision of a church leader and the encouragements and challenges of leadership. It may be that among these men, God will call some to be elders as we consider the step of constituting CPV as a church, rather than a church plant.

Heather is also meeting with five women over the next six weeks as they work their way through a study called "Real change" published by CCEF. It is a course that helps us see how the gospel transforms us from the inside. It is our hope that this tool can be used with others within or outside CPV. This group of women is also thinking of ways in which to reach out to non-Christian women through relationship building and invites to group activities.



People after church service



Women meeting with Heather

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the growth of CPV.
- Give thanks for our Portuguese members and for visits from a few other Portuguese people in recent weeks.
- Pray that as a church we will seek to fulfil our mission as witnesses in the world, seeking to be salt and light in the nation of Portugal.
- Pray for the five men who are going through the leadership course with James. Pray that some of these may even become the first elders of CPV.
- Pray for the women of CPV currently meeting to study and plan outreach activities.