

## James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



We left Portugal on 14th July after 15 years to return to N. Ireland for a time of refreshment, deputation and sabbatical. It was sad to leave behind friends who had become like family to us. It was also difficult to leave the apartment in Porto (it was where we called home for almost 10 years and was the longest, we have stayed in any one home during our married life!). And, of course, it was not easy to hand over all responsibility for Pedras Vivas. But it was God's timing and we trust that Pedras Vivas will be able to move smoothly into the next phase under the leadership of a new pastor. Pray that the church will find the right person to take on this role.

We are beginning to find our feet in N. Ireland. It does not feel like home just yet but it is lovely to be able to spend time with our two girls and wider family. After 22 years living away from NI (7 years in Brazil, 15 years in Portugal), we knew that it would not be easy to slot back in. Right now we feel confused about where we actually belong and the constant reminders, when we tackle simple everyday tasks, only serve to heighten this confusion. For instance, getting insurance for our car. When we explain we haven't been living in UK and hold full EU driving licenses, it is assumed we are "foreign", making it difficult to get a reasonable quote. (All sorted now, thankfully!). We haven't even tried registering with the NHS and local doctors yet ... that's the next challenge for the coming weeks!



**GLOBAL DISCIPLES**  
*Go Deep Go Wide*

**September 2023**

What lies ahead? That is the big question. Although we finished up the church planting project in Porto, there is still an open door to return to serve our partner church in another capacity. The other option is to stay in Ireland and serve God here. We trust and pray that in the coming months as we "finish up and let go" of the Porto project during our period of deputation (September-November) and have time to reflect, read and study, that God would reveal the next stage in our journey. We thank you for your continued prayer support throughout our time in Portugal and we ask you to continue to pray for us now as we seek God's guidance for the future.



### Prayer Points

- The church in Porto needs your prayers as much now as when we were there. Pray for God to lead Pedras Vivas to the next pastor. Pray that God would be preparing the church for this new phase. Pray for the right person to be called to lead the church.
- Pray for our time of refreshment (mid July - August), deputation (mid September to mid November) and sabbatical (from November) in N. Ireland. Pray that as we reflect and study that God would clearly lead and guide us to where He wants us to be next.