



James and Heather Cochrane

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



We were excited to report in our last bulletin that CPV is now a fully established church of the Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal (ICPP) under the leadership of three ordained elders and two ordained deacons. The ordination of this local leadership, in many ways, marks the beginning of a new chapter in CPV's history. It has, therefore, been a very natural time for us to reflect, pray and consider our call and future ministry. After several months of wrestling with this, we made the difficult decision of stepping back from the leadership of CPV to allow it to enter this new chapter under the leadership of a new pastor.

The timing of this decision coincides with a sabbatical we are due to take. This sabbatical will give us an opportunity to step back from full-time hands on ministry, to reflect, study and to pray about our future. We will return to NI in July, leaving the door open to return to Portugal after our sabbatical, if that is how God leads. We will also keep an open mind to consider other ministry opportunities. The future is uncertain but we step out in confidence, trusting that the Lord will make His plan clear to us at just the right time.

In the meantime we face three very busy months. James will continue to work with the new Session, helping them prepare CPV's church code and statutes, as well as to formulate a document outlining the profile of CPV and the qualities the church is looking for in their future pastor.

GLOBAL DISCIPLES *Go Deep Go Wide*

APRIL 2023

We are very thankful that Pr Luciano, also a pastor of ICPP, has agreed to assume leadership of CPV until December 2023, during which time CPV hopes to identify their new leader.

During these final months we want to consolidate the ministries of CPV and need to handover all of our responsibilities. We give thanks for strong leaders within the congregation and for ministry teams that already exist for our small group ministry, adolescents, Graúdos e miúdos (family ministry) and women's ministry. So we trust that this handover will be straightforward. It feels overwhelming at times as we think about all that needs done even at a very practical level but we will take it one day at a time, trusting in God for His help and direction.



Prayer Points

- Pray that God will direct the church to the pastor of His choice, who will bring continuity to the missional vision of CPV.
- Give thanks for the opportunity we have to take a sabbatical
- Pray for God's leading as we pray about future ministry
- Pray for the work that James is doing with the new elders
- Give thanks for Pr. Luciano
- Pray for the smooth handover of all our responsibilities, large and small.