

Chris and Rachel Humphries

JULY / AUGUST 2022

Location: Porto, PORTUGAL

Mission: Church planting



As we make plans to return to Northern Ireland this summer, this will most likely be our final bulletin. It is difficult to begin to summarise our time in Porto and what the Lord has been doing in us and his church. It is a mixture of emotions - we're thankful for the opportunity and privilege it has been to serve the Lord overseas, to learn a new culture, a new language, and to bring the gospel to many who have never heard it before. But at the same time, our hearts are heavy as we leave this people, this city, and this country that we have come to love. In all of this we are convinced of the Lord's goodness and sovereignty and look to him as we make plans to return.

As we mentioned in our previous email, we give thanks to God for the growth he has brought to Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) during this time. When we first arrived to Senhora da Hora in 2016 to do a placement, the church plant had yet to call its first members and only had a handful of people gathering on Sunday mornings. But it has now flourished to become a thriving body of believers with sixty members. We recognise that it is the Lord alone who has brought this growth, as the Apostle Paul reminds us that we sow and plant, but it is God who enables seeds to sprout and growth to take place. Please do continue to keep CPV in your prayers as it seeks to appoint local leadership over the coming months and continues to reach out to others with the precious news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

At the heart of CPV is a desire and a vision to be a missional church – a church that seeks to actively participate in the mission of God to the world around us. This means that mission isn't just something that the church 'does' as one of its programmes, but is part of its very nature

and essence. In this sense, every follower of Jesus is like a missionary – sent into their place of work, their family and their community to herald the good news of God's kingdom. So this work will continue, wherever we find ourselves in the future.

We are immensely grateful to each one of you who have supported us, prayed for us or sent messages of encouragement during our time in Porto. We are truly blessed beyond measure for brothers and sisters who often bring us before the throne of grace, and we sense the Lord's presence and guidance through the prayers of his people. So once again, a huge thank you and to God alone be the glory.

Prayer points

- Pray for all the practical aspects and logistics of moving house, country, and employment over the coming months – for the packing, the selling of goods and the final goodbyes.
- Give thanks that we have found spaces for schooling for Ezra and Abbie in Northern Ireland and pray that they would settle well back into life there.
- Pray for us that we would continue to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord during this time, and that we would use our final weeks wisely as we continue to share with others the hope of Jesus.