

Chris and Rachel Humphries

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



At the end of April / beginning of May, we had a visit from the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce to Porto as part of his overseas tour to Portugal. Unfortunately, Chris tested positive for Covid-19 on the day he arrived, so he was unable to meet with him in person. However, we give thanks that Chris was able to spend some time chatting with him via a Zoom call and it was great to be able to share how God has been working here in Porto and to glean some insights for ministry in a European context.



During his visit, the Moderator had the opportunity to meet with a representative from GBU (Grupos Biblicos Unidos) which is the Portuguese movement of the student body of IFES. He also visited Comundide Pedras Vivas (CPV) on the Sunday and met many of our members over lunch. Finally, he also travelled to Lisbon and spent some time with several other ministers from our partner denomination - the Christian Presbyterian Church in Portugal. As a church we give thanks for the encouraging time he spent with us and were challenged afresh to think about how we as members of CPV from various cultures and backgrounds, fit together as the body of Christ. We were also challenged afresh to continue in our efforts to plant missional churches here in Portugal and how each of us has a part to play in God's mission to the world around us.



GLOBAL DISCIPLES
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JUNE 2022

After almost two years, it has been great to see the return of the many Christian conferences. Recently, a conference took place in Braga, a city just north of Porto, which focused on the planting and revitalisation of local churches. The speaker at this event was a pastor called Ronaldo Lidorio, a church planter with many years' experience planting churches in Brazil and in other countries around the world. Over the course of several days, he shared with us various strategies and insights from his experience that have helped in the establishment and strengthen the local church. One of the strategies he shared from his experience was the need for intentionality. As church planters we spend a lot of time fostering good relationships with others, but this is always done with a gospel intentionality in the hope of deepening and strengthening faith, and in the hope of planting new gospel seeds. And so it is in the work of CPV – forging new relationships with others, whilst also helping to shepherd and disciple those who seek to live for Jesus in a context that is increasingly hostile and indifferent to Christianity. In all of this there is a need for a healthy dose of prayerful trust and confidence in the Lord, recognising that he alone can change hearts and lives by his grace, but also recognising that God often acts in response to the prayers of his people.



Prayer points

- Give thanks for the return of gatherings of church leaders after a two-year break, this brings with it great encouragement and fellowship for those serving in a mission context where other Christians are few and far between.
- Pray for the ongoing work of church-planting and revitalisation in this land of Portugal, for more workers to be raised up and new works to be established.
- Pray for CPV and its members as we seek to form discovery groups with those who are interested in exploring the Christian faith.
- Pray for us as a family as we continue to recover from the effects of Covid-19.