

## Chris and Rachel

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



Christ is all about, where faith can be strengthened and deepened, and for that sense of community that we have all missed throughout the last two years to be restored. Please do pray that these groups would be a great blessing and encouragement, not just for those taking part, but also for the neighbours and contacts in the area around these homes too, that Christ would be made known, and his name exalted.

After being back in Ireland for a period of deputation, we returned to Portugal at the end of February. It was great to be back in Ireland to catch up with many of you, to see family and friends and to share with some congregations about the need in Portugal and what God continues to do in and through us and CPV.

Having been reflecting on the nation of Portugal during our time in Ireland, we have been reminded afresh of the huge spiritual need here and the need for gospel-centred churches to be established. Biblical illiteracy is incredibly high in Portugal, and so if the truth of the gospel is to be fully understood and concepts like sin, grace and forgiveness are to be truly grasped, it is our conviction that relational discipleship is a vital means by which this is done. And so, it is our desire that God would work in and through us as his people as we reach out to those around us with the message of hope and salvation in Christ Jesus. Of course, this is a spiritual work, and so it continues to be our prayer that God would work powerfully by his Spirit and for hearts and lives to be transformed for his glory.

In our absence from Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) during these weeks, things have been busy. The small-group ministry recommenced in February, and we are thankful now that restrictions have eased sufficiently to allow groups to meet in homes. Currently, there are five groups that meet together around the greater Porto area, with roughly 10-12 people in each group. We are studying the letter of Paul to the Galatians, a book which helpfully reminds us that salvation does not come by any effort of our own but comes through faith alone in Christ Jesus. It is our prayer that these groups will provide a space where people can come and explore what salvation in Jesus



### Prayer points

- Pray for us as a family as we settle back into life in Porto (particularly Ezra and Abbie as they return to school).
- Pray that we would know much of God's wisdom and leading in the days ahead.
- Pray for the small-group ministry of CPV that faith would be strengthened and deepened.
- Pray for our many contacts, for opportunity to share with them the hope of Jesus Christ.