

Chris and Rachel Humphries

MARCH 2021

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



As we approach Easter, we want this Good News of great hope to be our message. As a church we have recorded short videos that we will share each day of Holy week. We want to remind our church family of the hope that we already have, and to invite those who aren't yet God's people to join in this assured hope that is above our current worries and fears.

From 15 March, Portugal has begun to ease Covid-19 restrictions. Schools are reopening, and in the coming weeks non-essential businesses will be allowed to open. As a church, it was such a joy to meet together for worship for the first time since January!

Throughout lockdown, we have endeavoured to maintain relationships with our church family and also friends. But it has been difficult, as being with people brings an informality, an openness and vulnerability, that is hard to achieve on a phone call. We are excited to begin meeting with people again and hope to reconnect and build on these relationships.

Spring has sprung in Portugal - the birds are singing as they perch in trees that have new buds and flowers are in bloom. After a very wet start to the year, in the last few weeks we have enjoyed warm, dry weather and the smell of freshly cut grass as we walk through the park. With this wonderful sense of new beginnings, both from Spring's arrival and also the easing of restrictions, it would be natural to feel hopeful and optimistic. But the last year has been incredibly difficult for many people, and with two lockdowns already and reports of more waves and lockdowns happening across Europe, people are afraid to hope. With so many disappointments, people are realising that nothing is certain as they try to make plans.

As God's people, we are also affected by the disappointments and frustrations of the last year. But we are never without hope. We know that all of these current tribulations will be nothing in comparison to the glory of Eternity with Jesus - and that this is not a wishful hope, but a sure and certain hope.

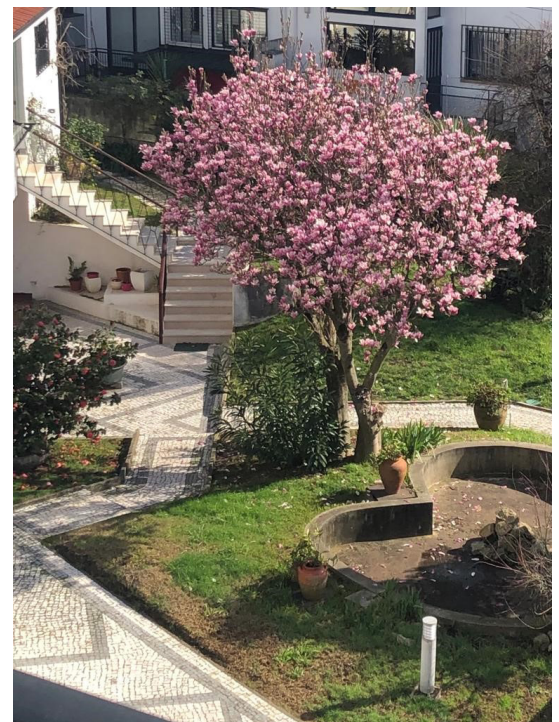


Photo: Signs of new life

Prayer points

- Pray that we would be able to reconnect and build on our relationships in the coming months.
- Pray for our Easter video series during holy week, that it would bring hope and salvation to those who watch them.
- Give thanks that we have a sure and certain hope in Jesus Christ and that many more people throughout Portugal and the world would also discover and know this hope too.