

Chris and Rachel Humphries

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



continuing to think of ways in which our members can remain connected whilst physically apart during this season.

Portugal has remained under lockdown regulations throughout the month of February, and it is anticipated that these will remain in place throughout much of March. Since our last bulletin, we give thanks that positive Covid-19 cases and death rates have greatly diminished, and it is our prayer that numbers will continue to decrease.

There has been an ongoing debate in Portugal for some time around assisted death or euthanasia. A final bill was recently brought to the Portuguese parliament by the five main political parties and on 29 January, parliament approved the decriminalisation of assisted death in Portugal. The bill has since passed to the Portuguese president - Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, to be signed into law. However, the President has sent the legislation to the Constitutional Court, arguing that some of the wording used in the legislation is subjective and that it must be verified by the court in order for it to proceed. Whilst many support the decriminalisation, many are also against it, with over a third of parliament voting against the introduction of the new law.

At a time in which the world is battling against soaring death rates as a result of the pandemic, some are questioning whether society should be more concerned with protecting life rather than ending it. These are profound and serious questions that the government is facing, and as Christ's church here in Portugal it is our prayer that they would seek to honour and protect life in all its forms.

As a church, we continue to meet online throughout the week and for our Sunday gatherings. We give thanks for the opportunity to gather digitally each week and are



Photo: Portuguese parliament debating the decriminalisation of assisted death.

Prayer points

- Pray for the Portuguese government, that they would seek to protect and preserve life in all of its forms. Also for wisdom as they seek to lead and guide during this period of confinement.
- As a church plant, there are always people coming and going. Some families are only here a short time in Portugal for work and then move on. Pray for us as leaders that we would find ways to foster community and cohesion amongst our church family.
- Pray for us as a family, that we would continue making connections with others in these uncertain and ever changing times.