

Chris and Rachel Humphries

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



light of Christ. So it is our prayer that many people would come to know the freedom that can only be found in Jesus Christ, and that they would come to celebrate their liberty from the oppression of sin and darkness.

Each year on 25 April, Portugal celebrates 'Dia de Liberdade' or 'Freedom Day'. It is a national holiday which celebrates the day in which the authoritarian regime of the Estado Novo or New State came to an end in 1974. Portugal was under this regime for over 40 years and whilst trying to distance itself from fascism, there were some similarities between the Portuguese Estado Novo, and other fascist regimes active in Europe during a similar period. The Estado Novo was ended by a military coup which overthrew the regime to form a new democratic government. It became known as the carnation revolution, as almost no shots were fired, and instead red carnation flowers were handed out to soldiers who won back the democracy of the people. As a result of the revolution, freedom of speech and expression were permitted once again, and a new constitution was drawn up allowing non-Catholic religions to be recognised with the right to freely gather.



Photo: The Carnation Revolution

Many people who lived under this regime are still alive today and as church-planters we can see the lingering effect of the regime including the fact that other religions are still viewed with suspicion and seen as something foreign, which can be a real barrier to sharing the gospel. However, we give thanks to God for the liberty and freedom we have as Christ's church to gather to worship him as a result of the revolution all those years ago.

The revolution celebrates freedom from an authoritarian government regime, but as church-planters and missionaries we also know that there is a deeper significance to this freedom, and that there is an even greater spiritual regime active today which seeks to keep people in darkness and prevent them from seeing the

Prayer points

- Pray for the nation of Portugal, that the forces of evil and darkness would be lifted and for the light of gospel to shine through his faithful witnesses.
- Give thanks that we as a church are able to continue meeting for face-to-face gatherings, and for God to continue to bless our worship together for his glory.
- Give thanks that we as a family remain in good health and pray that we would continue to make connections with others during this pandemic season.