

## Chris and Rachel Humphries

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



For the past week, both of our children's schools have been gearing up for Halloween. Ghosts, skeletons, and witches' hats cover the walls. Pumpkin competitions with the theme of 'most scary' and parties where the kids are encouraged to dress up as something spooky. All week, anything that is to do with death or darkness has been celebrated. How ironic is it then that Halloween is the same day that the church celebrates the Protestant Reformation (31 October). Over 500 years ago, one infamous monk raised questions (and a mallet) that would bring the light and life of Christ back into the church.

What a contrast!

Although the reformation swept across much of Northern Europe, it sadly never reached Portugal. Here, there is still a darkness where there should be light, unbelief where there should be belief, and death where there should be life. But the same God that opened the eyes of Martin Luther continues to open the eyes of those who are spiritually blind today, and this is why we are here - to see the word of God preached in Portugal, to see the truths of the gospel transform peoples lives and to see the beauty, life and light of Jesus shine and overcome darkness.

As we mentioned in our last bulletin, many churches here in the North are currently following a movement of 21 days of fasting and praying for Northern Portugal. Many churches also celebrate reformation day with a special Sunday service, so we would love it if you could pray for a move of God's Spirit upon this land, that the church here in Portugal would be revived and would continually seek to rediscover the precious truths of Scripture. This is what the reformers sought to do throughout the world, and it



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is our prayer that it would continue here. As Luther once said: "What does it amount to, if we have the gospel in this little corner? Just reckon that there is no gospel in all of Asia and Africa, and that the gospel isn't preached in many parts of Europe!". Our prayer is that God would continue to extend his kingdom in this corner of Europe and that we as his people would be challenged afresh in bringing his message of light and life amidst darkness.



### Prayer points

- Pray for the ongoing prayer and fasting movement 'Juntos' for it to continue to challenge and bless us as a church here in Porto.
- Pray for us as CPV, that we would be bold and courageous in reaching those in our communities for Christ.
- Pray for James and Heather as they return to Portugal after a period of deputation in Ireland without Alana and Lucy (who are both at university). For God's grace to abound as they adapt to this new season of life.