

Chris and Rachel Humphries

Location: **Porto, PORTUGAL**

Mission: **Church planting**



In a normal year, as we approach September, churches would be gearing up for everything starting back after the summer. Sunday school, youth groups, men's and women's meetings, evangelistic outreach, would all have scheduled their first meetings back and there would (hopefully!) be an enthusiasm for the year ahead and how God will work through each ministry.

This year is different however, at least for us here in Portugal. Although we are not on lockdown, the government has not yet given the green light for things to return to 'normal'. We are meeting for Sunday services and weekly prayer meetings, but everything else is on hold. There are many things we want to commence or recommence. But we are waiting, and with waiting can come frustration. Yet we don't need to look too far into scripture to see the very obvious theme of waiting.

Joseph spent nearly 14 years in a prison cell. Moses spent 40 years in Egypt's courts, and then another 40 in the wilderness before he led the people out of Egypt. David was anointed king, then waited almost 15 years before he sat on the throne.



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Clearly, God is not as worried about being efficient as we are. Often, we are in a hurry to do something and become frustrated when it's delayed. But God is never frustrated. He is not worried about interruptions or delays. What if God's greatest work wasn't being done by us, but in us? What if he is more concerned with refining and shaping us and is happy to spend our entire lifetime doing just so? Would we see waiting differently then? Would we welcome the interruptions to our plans, the long periods of waiting, knowing that God is using these times and situations to make us more like His Son?

And so as we enter into Autumn, we do so with eagerness to be active. But we are also patient, knowing that God is already at work in us and around us, and as we adjust our gaze to the eternal, we do so with both peace and expectation.



Church lunch in the park

Prayer Points

- Pray that we would soon be able to restart ministries within CPV
- Pray that God would continue to work in us and around us during these times of waiting
- Pray for God to bless the ongoing relationship building amongst our church and community