



## The need for intentionality



### Chris and Rachel Humphries Global mission workers in Portugal

At the end of April/beginning of May, we had a visit from the then Moderator, Dr David Bruce, to Porto as part of his overseas tour to Portugal. Unfortunately, Chris tested positive for Covid-19 on the day he arrived, so he was unable to meet with him in person. However, we give thanks that Chris was able to spend some time chatting with him via a Zoom call and it was great to be able to share how God has been working here in Porto and to glean some insights for ministry in a European context.

During his visit, the Moderator had the opportunity to meet with a representative from GBU (Grupos Bíblicos Unidos) which is the Portuguese movement of the student body of IFES. He also visited Comundide Pedras Vivas (CPV) on the Sunday and met many of our members over lunch. Finally, he also travelled to Lisbon and spent some time with several other ministers from our partner denomination – the Christian Presbyterian Church in Portugal. As a church, we give thanks for the encouraging time he spent with us and were challenged afresh to think about how we, as members of CPV from various cultures and backgrounds, fit together as the body of Christ. We were also challenged afresh to continue in our efforts to plant missional churches here in Portugal and how each of us has a part to play in God’s mission to the world around us.

After almost two years, it has been great to see the return of the many Christian conferences. Recently, a conference took place in Braga, a city just north of Porto, which focused on the planting and revitalisation of local churches. The speaker at this event was

a pastor called Ronaldo Lidório, a church planter with many years’ experience planting churches in Brazil and in other countries around the world. Over the course of several days, he shared with us various strategies and insights from his experience that have helped in the establishment and strengthening of the local church. One of the strategies he shared was the need for intentionality. As church planters, we spend a lot of time fostering good relationships with others, but this is always done with a gospel intentionality in the hope of deepening and strengthening faith,

and in the hope of planting new gospel seeds. And so it is in the work of CPV – forging new relationships with others, whilst also helping to shepherd and disciple those who seek to live for Jesus in a context that is increasingly hostile and indifferent to Christianity. In

all of this there is a need for a healthy dose of prayerful trust and confidence in the Lord, recognising that he alone can change hearts and lives by his grace, but also recognising that God often acts in response to the prayers of his people.

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#### Please pray:

- Pray for the ongoing work of church planting and revitalisation in this land of Portugal, for more workers to be raised up and new works to be established.
- Pray for CPV and its members as we seek to form discovery groups with those who are interested in exploring the Christian faith.