James & Heather COCHRANE

PORTUGAL

Location: Porto

Mission: Church Planting

Hellos and goodbyes!
If we were to sum up 2016 in three words it would be 'hellos and goodbyes'. We said hello to a few short-term volunteers – the Humphries, Laura Mulligan, the Bells - and, after a few weeks and months, we said goodbye to them as well. In May, we also said goodbye to the Knapps who had been helping since February 2014. We are very thankful for all that each of these short-term volunteers have contributed to Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) and to the encouragement they have been to us personally. Finally, in December, we said hello and goodbye to Nathan and Kathy Griffith when they returned for a few weeks to sort some practical details following their decision to remain in Australia. It was good to see them both again, but their leaving reminded us of the need for long term co-workers as we head into 2017.

Over the past months we have been talking with Pedro, a young Portuguese Christian who currently lives and works in Barcelona. He has a passion for evangelism and mission and is keen to return to serve God in Portugal. We are also talking with Paulo and Irene Jorge, an Igreja Cristã Presbiteriana de Portugal (ICPP) missionary couple working in Paços de Ferreira which is 35km north-east of Porto. Given the proximity of the two ICPP church plants (CPV is also an ICPP church plant) we feel it makes sense to explore together God's plan and vision for the future of ICPP in the northern Portugal.

At the end of 2015, we asked God to grow a core group within CPV during 2016. God has answered this prayer and during 2016 we have also said hello to new faces at the Sunday morning gatherings. We are very thankful for those who appear regularly each Sunday morning, but continue to pray for a greater sense of commitment and a desire to witness and reach out to those around. We are also very thankful for the core group of around 10 adolescents and teens who come on Friday evenings.

We finish by saying goodbye to 2016 and thanking you for your faithful prayer support during the past 12 months.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the short-term volunteers who have contributed to CPV during 2016.
- Pray for ongoing conversations with Pedro and for his visit to CPV in January 2017.
- Pray that as we explore with Paulo and Irene we would each sense God's leading.
- Give thanks for the core group each Sunday morning and for the adolescents.

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