

James & Heather COCHRANE

PORTUGAL

Location: Porto

Mission: Church Planting

Since the beginning, Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) has been blessed to have couples as part of the church family. Over the past six months, with the arrival of many Brazilian Christians, the number of couples has greatly increased. The majority of these are young recently married couples, however there are a few couples with more experience of married and family life.

This month we will have the second specific gathering for the couples of CPV. It is an informal time together to explore how being a disciple of Jesus is worked out within married and family life. The focus is on the application of Christian principles to specific areas of married life. At the first meeting in February we considered the impact of technology on the marriage relationship. We did this by a directed conversation encouraging the questions and participation of everyone. This format is new for many as they are more used to coming, sitting and listening to someone speak or preach for 30 minutes. At this early stage the couples are still getting to know each other, but as time progresses the level of participation and trust will increase.

The initial focus is on those who are Christians but, as we become more comfortable together as a group, we hope to encourage the involvement of non-Christian



couples. Given that Portugal has one of the highest divorce rates in Europe (in recent years, 7 out of every 10 marriages ended in divorce), there are many couples who could benefit from specific help, support and encouragement.



Photo: The first couples evening

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the couples of CPV and the start of this new ministry.
- Pray for the second meeting to be held on 12 April.
- The space we rent is not able to cope with the increased number of people gathering at CPV. In addition, the leaking roof problems have returned and so we sense it is time to consider the possibility of looking for a new space to rent. Pray for God's leading and guiding.
- Lucy's IGCSEs begin on 2 May. Pray for her at this time of dedicated study.