

## James & Heather COCHRANE

### PORTUGAL

**Location:** Porto

**Mission:** Church Planting

Luís and Paula, a recently engaged couple, have been attending Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) since July 2017. Paula, from Brazil, has been a Christian for many years, but Luís grew up in Portugal having little contact with any church. Through Paula's witness and Luís' participation in CPV, he became a Christian. We praise God for the growth of Luís' faith and it was a joy to hear him profess his faith publicly and be baptised at the end of December 2018 when they were received as members of CPV.

God continues to bless CPV with the arrival of committed Christians from Brazil. We can now have up to 50 people worshipping on a Sunday morning. Sadly, we were reminded of the precarious nature of immigrants coming to Portugal when David, a young Brazilian who came to Portugal in 2018 to be a professional football player, had to return to Brazil as he was unable to fulfil the visa requirements.

Because Portugal and Brazil both speak Portuguese, many Brazilians who arrive in Portugal are surprised to experience culture shock and are often not equipped to cope with this. They are also unfamiliar with the "smallness" of the evangelical world in Portugal. As a result, during the month of February, we are planning a series of midweek studies focusing on 'making disciples in the European context'. We will look at culture and context (society and church), what is the gospel (the essence of the message we are called



to communicate), how to evangelise and witness in a European context (the importance of building relationships, not assuming any biblical understanding and avoiding jargon). Finally, we will work together to define a missional vision and strategy for CPV for 2019 that will be relevant for our context.

The Humphries family are due to arrive in Porto on 1 March. Give thanks that they have found an apartment and pray for them as they have so much to attend to over the next few weeks.



*Photo: Luís' baptism*

## Prayer Points

- Give thanks that God continues to add to his church in Senhora da Hora and pray for Luís and Paula.
- Give thanks for those who continue to arrive from Brazil and pray for their integration into Portugal.
- Pray for the 'Making disciples in a European context' course and that there will be good attendance from all those who attend CPV.
- Pray for Alana as she settles back into life in Belfast and for Lucy as she studies for her IGCSE in May.