

James & Heather COCHRANE

PORTUGAL

Location: Porto

Mission: Church Planting

Adolescents

Over the past few years we have mentioned the challenge of having very few young people in the Portuguese churches.

During the history of Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) the number of young people has fluctuated but, we give thanks that there are currently six to eight ranging in age from 11 to 18 years of age who attend CPV on Sunday mornings. However, they attend different schools and many of them arrived in Portugal from Brazil in the last year and, as a result, they do not know each other very well.

With this in mind, we set out a specific programme of activities during July and August to cultivate stronger links between these young people. Through BBQs, cinema, mini golf, games evening, and a visit to a near by water park we are beginning to see the young people becoming more comfortable with each other. It is our prayer that these developing relationships will form the necessary foundation for discipleship and mentoring which will equip and support them to live as disciples of Christ among their peers.

The new academic year begins in the second week of September. The school environment is not easy for young Christians as many find themselves being the only Christian in their year group or even in their school. This reality has been a shock and challenge for



the young people coming from Brazil, where they are used to a local church with many more young people, many of whom go to the same school as they do.

Pray for the young people of CPV as they live out their faith in a challenging daily environment, that they would be enabled to engage with their peers and be a winsome witness for Christ.



Photo: The young people at the mini-golf.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the summer activities and the developing relationships among the youth of CPV.
- As we continue to reflect on the vision and strategy of CPV, pray for the development of a suitable discipleship model for these young people.
- Pray for them as they return to school.
- Pray that as the youth work at CPV moves forward, we would be able to create an environment which is welcoming and relevant to the non-Christian friends and peers of the CPV youth.