

Colloquium

November 2016

News from Luciano & Luciene Pires – Vision Trip to Portugal

Dear friends,
We pray this email will find you well.

We got back from Portugal on a Saturday just before a nationwide conference in which Luciano was the translator for the main speaker. And then Luciano attended the Latin America Church Planting Forum held in Merida, Mexico. So we returned and literally hit the ground running. We are glad to finish our Portugal Vision Trip report now and send it to you.

And we have one main word to share about it:
"Confirming."

The City

Porto is a vibrant city, the second largest city in Portugal, with very narrow roads. But the main attraction is literally thousands of University Students.

We drove through all Porto district (County) to get to know it, and to locate the best place to live in order to reach out to University students. We decided on an area called Bonfim that is located close to the University of Porto, and also very close to the subway and bus stop. We learned that people in general, but especially University students rely on public transportation. Also, we chose the school that we think will be the best option to enroll Mila (12), and Pedro (9), about 15-20 minutes away from Bonfim.



Connections and Needs



We visited "Comunidade Pedras Vivas" (*Living Stones Community Church*), the only Presbyterian church plant in Porto district (county) led by an Irish missionary couple, James and Heather. The church has been going 5 years, and 18 people are attending. All of them were believers before attending Pedras Vivas, so there have not been any new conversions since the church was launched. We also met Pr. Manoel Luzia, the leader of the Christian Presbyterian Church in Portugal. It is a denomination about 30 years old planted by MTW missionaries, with 7 churches and 70 members in all Portugal. Most of its churches are in south, close to Lisbon. There are only two Portuguese pastors in the denomination; the others are five Brazilian missionaries, and James the Irishman in Porto (in northern Portugal). Their churches have almost no young people. So, in a nutshell, this is a difficult reality. Compared to the large population, Portugal is a country with "few" people who understand, and confess a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, and the historians point out "where the Reformation never came." We would like to join James and Heather to serve them on this church planting effort.



We also met with Pr. Joel Oliveira, he is the general secretary of GBU (*Grupo Bíblico Universitário – with IFES, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students Portugal*). Joel was very encouraging and is open for us to partner with GBU to serve them in everything our Lord enables us, especially through Colloquium. Our prayer, and goal is that the GBU students become the link between us and the non-Christian University students, and that our home through Colloquium becomes a place to renew the minds, transform the lives and impact the Portuguese culture, by God's grace and for His glory.

Another pastor we were blessed to meet is Samuel Paulo, a local Portuguese pastor of a non-denominational church with a very relevant ministry in Porto.

All the people we met in Porto, James and Heather (from Ireland), Joel and Samuel Paulo, and also with Manoel Luzia in Lisbon, said the same to us: "Come." Their words, along with the tangible need, plus a "connection at first sight" so to speak, with the Portuguese and with Porto, have made us come before the Lord and ask Him to confirm His sending us to Portugal for as long as He wants us to live there, even for a lifetime if that is His will.



We are aware that there will be many cultural challenges, many spiritual battles, that we might not see much fruit of our labor, just like our brothers and sisters who have been laboring there for many years, even decades. Yet, we pray to our Lord, as He gave Abraham a call, and gave Him faith and means to pursue it, that He will strength and deepen our faith in Him so that when we engage in those battles we see not only "Isaac" in front of us, but through the eyes of faith the multitude of Portuguese who will come

to Him, even as we have come to walk with our Lord.

Prayer Requests

As you receive this report, our main prayer

request is that our Lord will gather all necessary support for us, prayers and finances, for our family's relocation to Portugal.



Our financial target is to have 25% of support raised in Brazil between now and June 2017. Then seek 75% of our support from the US. And prayerfully move to Portugal by July 2018.

We will also be applying for a Religious Worker visa status to enter the United States. Moving to the US, even temporarily, is a complicated matter that requires lots of paperwork. We covet your prayers on this regard, and will keep you posted as it develops.

So, please join us in prayer, and if you know of anyone, or any church that you could refer us regarding our support needs to serve in Portugal, we will be deeply thankful.

Thanks for your prayer and/or financial support to us.

In His Love,

Luciano, Luciene, Mila e Pedro

lupires@yahoo.com

Website - <http://www.pmiweb.org/lp.php>

Colloquium Rua T-37, Rua T37

Goiania, GO 74000 BRAZIL



Presbyterian Mission International is a 501c3 non-profit agency. All donations are tax-deductible.