



Postcards from Portugal

October 2024 | Samuel & Emily Loa-Ferreira
Serving Jesus in Portugal

**Click to watch our Home Assignment video
and see how God has been at work during our
first years in Portugal:**



Olá precious prayer partners,

*"How thankful we are for those who give, who pray and send so that those who've never heard the gospel and are not a part of the kingdom of God have the opportunity to join the body of Christ. **One day we will all gather around the throne to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords: those who sent missionaries, the missionaries and those who responded to the gospel message.** We will all stand amazed at the grace of God in allowing us to come into His presence and spend eternity with Him. Only then will we see the full strategic influence of those who have prayed and sacrificially given so that the gospel could go to those who needed to hear it. **With eternity in view, may churches continue to pray, give and send out missionaries; may missionaries be faithful to their call and the mandate of the church; and may the Savior of the world be praised.**" - Robynn Bliss and Sue Eenigenburg. *Expectations and Burnout: Women Surviving the Great Commission**

These words aptly sum up our heart of thanks to God and his people as we have visited several partner churches and met up with many individuals during the course of our Home Assignment in Australia so far. **We're past half-way and have overall been greatly encouraged by the warmth with which we have been received, and the interest in God's work in Portugal.** Though, as introverts, we have required a lot of rest inbetween!

A prayer of ours throughout Home Assignment has been that as we share about life and ministry in Portugal and the needs of the gospel there, God will receive the glory due to His name, not us. It is easy for 'missionaries' to be put on a pedestal and glorified as 'super-Christians'. Would you join us in prayer that as we continue to visit churches and individuals, God would receive the glory and praise for His work in our lives and in the lives of Portuguese people?

With love in Christ,
Em, Sam and Oli.



At our first 'drop-in day' in Kings Langley



With the Uni Bible Group in Wollongong



With City Central Presbyterian Church,
Wollongong



With Joshua Tree Church, Petersham



With Village Church, Annandale



With the kids of Village Church,
Annandale



With the retirees group at Toongabie Anglican Church



Portuguese tarts and chicken with Toongabie Anglican Church



Oliver has enjoyed exploring all the new places with his new-found skill of walking!

An update from Shane in Portugal

We're in Australia but God's work continues in Coimbra! The new academic year has started in Portugal, with a new leadership team and new opportunities to make Jesus known on campus. **Shane, our substitute staff-worker, gives an update;**

*Give thanks for a positive first month in Coimbra. I am feeling settled, well received by the believers here and encouraged about ministry opportunities. Things are going well with the GBU so far. The leadership have had good planning meetings, and there is a definite sense of unity and willingness to serve from the members. **We had our first weekly meeting at the end of September which was well attended. Things look positive for a fruitful ministry over the course of the next academic year, as each member of the leadership is very keen to serve and engage with their fellow students through the GBU.***

*Give thanks for a good leadership group over GBU Coimbra who I have been able to connect well with over the past month. I have started discipleship with two guys who are both part of the leadership of GBU Coimbra. Please pray for fruitful times with them, and that we could all grow together through the study of God's Word. **Please pray for as many students as possible from the Coimbra University to engage with the GBU, and that there would be fruit in the lives of Christians and non-Christians.***



Shane (far left), our substitute staff-worker, meeting with the GBU Coimbra leadership team in our apartment.

We'd still love to see you!

We'd still love to catch you while we're in Australia! **If you won't have a chance to see us at one of our partner churches, we'd love to see you at our last Drop In day on Saturday November 3rd at Village Church!** Drop-in at any point during the day between 10am to 4pm for as little or as long as you'd like. Come say hello, meet Oli and hear a bit about life and ministry in Portugal. Get more information and RSVP [here](#).


We'll also be hosting an online 'Pray for Portugal' Zoom at 6-7pm AEST on Tuesday December 10th (note this has changed from in-person to online). This is a great option for those who won't have a chance to see us in-person. RSVP to receive the Zoom link [here](#)

We hope to see you during our Home Assignment!

- **27 Oct** | Campsie Chinese Congregational Church
 - **2 Nov** | DROP-IN day #2 at Village Church Annandale - [RSVP here](#)
 - **10 Nov** | Joshua Tree Presbyterian Church Petersham
 - **17 Nov** | Northern Beaches Church
 - **10 Dec** | ONLINE Pray for Portugal Zoom 6-7pm AEDT- [RSVP here](#)
 - **15 Dec** | Commissioning Service Village Church Annandale 6pm - [RSVP here](#)
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Prayer Points

- Praise God for our partners in the gospel who pray and give so that the gospel can go out to those who need to hear it in Portugal. Praise God for times of mutual encouragement with partner churches and individuals in Australia.
 - Praise God for special times with Em's family in Australia and the bond they can form with Oliver (who is nearly 1!)
 - Pray that as we continue to share about life and ministry in Portugal with churches and individuals, God will receive the glory due to His name, not us.
 - Praise God that Shane, our substitute staff-worker with the GBU in Coimbra, has been able to connect well with students. As the academic year begins, pray for as many students as possible to engage with the GBU, and that there would be fruit in the lives of Christians and non Christians.
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We are serving with European Christian Mission ([ECM](#)). ECM's vision is to share Christ's love in Europe through evangelism, discipleship and church planting in partnership with local believers.