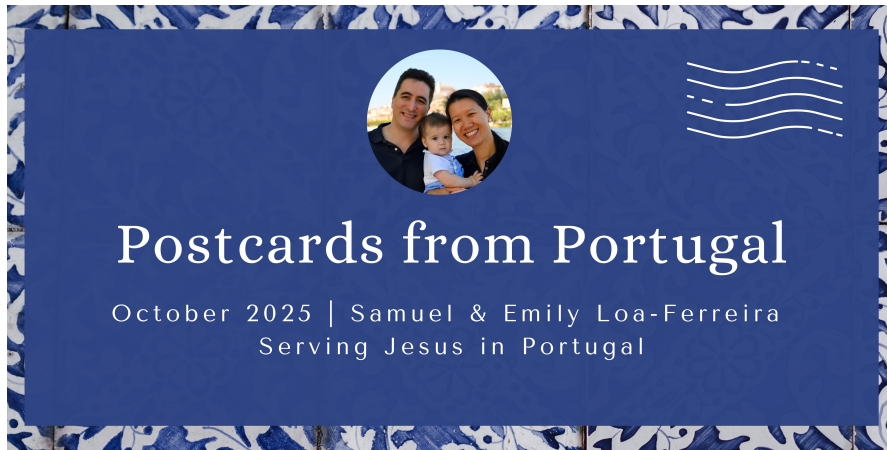




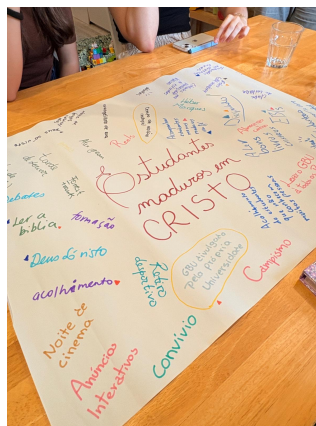
Click to watch October video update:



Olá precious prayer partners,

The new academic year has started and as we've worked alongside the student leadership team, **Colossians 1:28 has been the key verse that has shaped our purpose and vision for the next year: "He (Jesus) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ."** As one of the students remarked, this seems like an unachievable task- to present everyone absolutely mature in Christ! And yet, it's the goal we are to labour towards, with the energy that Christ gives us, with dependence on His Spirit to work. **Through your partnership, we are able to be here in Portugal, labouring to present these students mature in Christ.** This is an invaluable investment of your prayers, giving and energy, which is already bearing eternal fruit. We thank God for you!

With love in Christ, Emily and Sam.



GBU Coimbra student leaders brainstorming what it looks like to be "mature in Christ"

New academic year, new students, same mission

In God's kindness, we've had a strong start to the academic year (check out [the video!](#)) We're feeling more organised than previous years and have set up some good structures that help us to keep track of new and returning students.



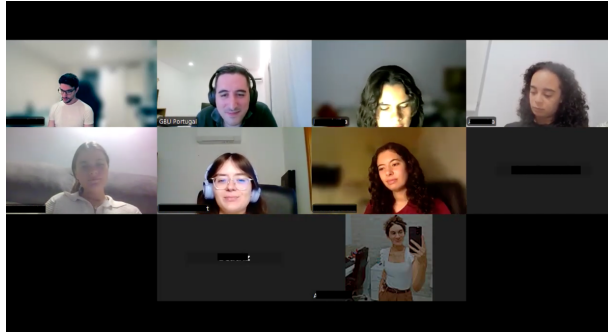
- The **GBU National Conference** went well, with good bible talks focused on the **Kingdom of God**. Students seemed to engage well with Em's seminar on 'Christian dating', which focused on pursuing 'holiness' as the guiding principle in relationships. How vital it is to teach from the bible on topics so pertinent to university students- especially when the world's message is so drastically different!



- Here in Coimbra, **we'd have an influx of new students join the GBU- some Christian, some uncertain and some exploring faith**. One seeking student, B, joined the weekly bible talk last week because a Christian friend from another city encouraged her to go! She seems eager to learn more about Jesus. Join us in praying she might take steps towards knowing Jesus.



- **This semester's weekly Bible talks are exploring the theme "Why Jesus is Good News For..."** covering topics like university life, my worries and anxieties, my loneliness, my guilt, history, politics, and money. There will be a range of speakers, including Sam. Please pray that each would teach faithfully from God's Word and that students would see how Jesus truly is good news for all who trust in Him. **We have been able to reserve an auditorium (pictured) on the main campus for these talks.** It's a great space, and enables more students to join. Maybe we'll see the auditorium full one day?!



- Earlier this semester, **Sam trained online a new cohort of students from GBU groups across Portugal through the Bible Study Leaders Course.** The feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive, with many students saying they feel far more equipped to write and lead Bible studies. Praise God! **One student shared, "Learning all these tools to read the Bible has helped me understand it better. I also am now more aware of how to welcome non-Christians to our bible studies. I've already put some things into practice in my GBU group."**

Looking for.... men!

At the moment, around 80% of GBU Coimbra are girls. Many of them are encouraging, mature women who take their faith in Jesus seriously and serve with commitment and humility. What a blessing! But we are really lacking guys like this. You'll probably notice the imbalance in the photos and videos we share from GBU gatherings!

We long to see both men and women disciplined and grown in Christ in the GBU, equipped to be servant hearted leaders in their local churches. **The lack of mature Christian men in the GBU reflects a broader reality in many churches across Portugal. This shortage has significant implications for the next generation of elders, leaders, and teachers in local churches.** It feels like a bit of a strange thing to ask for prayer... but could you pray God would bring more men to the GBU, whose hearts are willing to be matured in Christ? Do pray for Sam in particular, for wisdom to know how to best encourage and discipline the current guys in the GBU.



The current GBU Coimbra student leadership team- a reflection of our shortage of guys!

More Labourers for Portugal

After three and a half years in Portugal, we continue to see the great need for more workers in this ripe harvest field! **Excitingly, we're in early conversations with a young Portuguese man exploring ministry training in Australia, and with an Australian couple considering long-term ministry in Coimbra.** Each of them is thoughtfully counting the cost of following this decision.

Please join us in praying for God's wisdom and leading in these conversations. **Pray that, if it's His will, He would open the necessary doors to make these plans possible.** And pray that each of them would seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, trusting that He will provide for all their needs amidst lots of unknowns.



Family pic with a very typically Portuguese backdrop!



Oli (nearly 2 years old) enjoying the local riverbank. He claims to have seen a shark in the waters. His claim is yet to be verified.

Prayer Points

- Pray that we and the GBU Coimbra leadership team would keep Colossians 1:28 at the centre of our ministry this year. "He (Jesus) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ."
- Praise God for many new students joining GBU Coimbra. Pray they would grow in maturity in Christ, and that B, a seeking student, would come to know Jesus.
- Pray for Sam and others speaking at weekly Bible talks this semester, to teach faithfully from God's Word.
- Praise God for the many women involved in GBU. Pray that He would raise up more men eager to be matured in Christ.
- Pray for the young Portuguese man exploring ministry training in Australia, and the Australian couple considering long-term ministry in Coimbra- for God's wisdom and leading, and if it's His will, that he would open doors to make these plans possible.

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Financially partner with Samuel and Emily



We are serving with European Christian Mission ([ECM](#)). ECM's vision is to see the peoples of Europe transformed in the name of Jesus Christ through evangelism, discipleship and church planting in partnership with local believers across Europe.