



**Olá precious prayer partners,**

**Summer is here, the academic year has ended, and we wanted to use this newsletter to share with you stories of how “the gospel is bearing fruit and growing” (Col 1:6) in Coimbra, Portugal. The common thread in all these stories is the amazing work of God’s Spirit, drawing people to Himself in circumstances that we, in our human logic, might not think God would work through. The other common thread is God choosing to use the GBU (University Bible Group) in partnership with the local church as a means of this work.** It is a reminder of the value of university ministry and how your partnership in this ministry is bearing eternal fruit!

When we think about the state of the evangelical church in Portugal, the struggles within Christian organisations, and the general hardness of people’s hearts, we are easily disheartened. But when we think about the individual lives of people God has put before us, and the ways which they are becoming more mature in Christ, we are so encouraged! **We hope you enjoy meeting some of these people in this newsletter :)**

With love in Christ,

Emily and Sam



End of academic year celebration picnic with the students of GBU Coimbra

## MEET ANA-LUISA: Growing through Discipleship



*“My time in the GBU has been a period of growth, learning and maturing, and you have both been fundamental at every stage of that journey. You reflect Christ in both the small and big things, and are leaders who not only guide the GBU but disciple, welcome, and love the Truth.”* - Some lovely words from a card written by Ana-Luisa, a 4th year Law student whom we first met as a 1st year in 2023.

Ana-Luisa grew up in a church that was not focused on teaching the Bible, but over recent years, through joining a different church and being part of the GBU, she has grown significantly in her understanding of Scripture and in submitting more of her life to the Lordship of Christ. **Em has been reading the Bible with her one-to-one for the past 1.5 years, and it is clear how God has used His Word in this sanctifying work in her life.**

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## MEET "D": From Atheist to Serious Seeker



*“How can you be so happy?”* D asked Deborah, his Christian friend who had invited him to a GBU dinner. *“We find happiness in the Lord”* she replied. *“You’re joking”* he responded.

"D" is a philosophy student who described himself as an atheist when we first met him at a GBU Christmas dinner in December 2025. He was struck by the joy of the students and the way the Bible was taught. Last semester he joined Sam's Bible study reading John's Gospel (pictured), and has been visiting a Catholic church with a friend as well as an Evangelical church with a GBU friend. **He is genuinely seeking truth, and seems to be exploring different 'paths of Christianity'. He hasn't taken up Sam's invitation to**

meet one-to-one.. we need wisdom! Would you pray that God would lead him to the truth found in Jesus?

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## MEET BEATRIZ: A 3 Year Journey to Church



After a miraculous healing from a life-threatening illness in her late teens, Beatriz (pictured next to Sam) put her trust in Jesus and began searching for a church. Coming from a nominally Catholic family, she first took herself to a Protestant church, but after two years recognised that its prosperity-gospel teaching was inconsistent with Scripture. In her first year of university, she joined another church, where she realised the focus seemed to be more on the pastor and worship experience than on careful teaching from the bible.

Earlier this year, she connected with GBU Coimbra, joined a Bible study, and met Christians her age who take their faith in Jesus seriously. **A GBU friend invited her to our church, where she has eagerly soaked up God's word being taught in Christian community.** Pray that she keeps coming regularly!

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## MEET PEDRO: Granted New Life in Christ



***"I am no longer scared of God and His judgement anymore. Through Christ I know I have peace with Him, and that gives me peace."*** These were Pedro's words at his baptism last month. What a joy!

God has used all sorts of means to bring Pedro do this point.. growing up as a nominal Roman Catholic, challenging personal circumstances, intentional evangelism of a GBU student/staff, youtube videos of Spurgeon.. and intentional discipleship at our church. Praise God!

In our August 2025 prayer newsletter we asked for prayer for Pedro's wife, who at the time was not coming to church. **Praise god for His gracious answer to prayer.. she has been coming along regularly the past 2 months** and has enjoyed the warmth of the Christian community and teaching from the bible. Oli has enjoyed playing with their 3 year old daughter on a few play dates. Join us in praying that Pedro's wife and daughter would also come to have this new life and peace with God!

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### Also meet... **BABY Loa-Ferreira #2!**



There is a new little life that God is knitting together in Em's womb! **Loa-Ferreira Baby #2 is growing healthily and due in mid-November.** After a rough first trimester feeling nauseous and fatigued, Em is feeling well and functional again. This season of pregnancy, birth and having a newborn brings with it inevitable changes in our capacities and family dynamic, and we'd love prayer for gracious acceptance and embracing of this, and faithfulness to the Lord in this special time.

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### Coming Up.. **Summer Projects**

- **For Em: Writing a bible study series in the Psalms** for GBU groups across Portugal to use next academic year.
- **For Sam: Doing some vision casting and strategic planning** for GBU Coimbra and some churches.
- **For all of us: Holidays!** We'll take a few weeks off exploring new places in Portugal, and also doing some house projects to make room for baby #2, and Em's parents staying with us in November and December (what a blessing!)



Everyone looking sharper than usual at Sam's sister's wedding last week.

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### Prayer Points

- Praise God for the work of His Spirit, drawing people to himself in all sorts of life circumstances.
  - Praise for God the way the gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the lives of GBU students like Ana-Luisa, Beatriz and D.
  - Praise God for Pedro's baptism. Pray that Pedro's wife and daughter would also come to have this new life and peace with God
  - Praise God for the baby he is knitting together in Em's womb. Pray for gracious acceptance and embracing of changing capacities and family dynamics.
  - Prayer for diligence and faithfulness in our summer projects: for Emily, writing Psalm bible studies, and for Sam, strategic planning for GBU and churches.
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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.