



# Mark and Aura Pereira

Church Planting missionaries in

**P o r t u g a l**

Dear Prayer Partners,

March 2020

[This letter is part of a more complete Progress Report. For the full report visit the following link <http://reachportugal.com/2020/04/07/march-2020-report/>]

As I write these words, there has been 375 people dead, and 271 are in intensive care units because of the corona virus pandemic. These numbers are growing by 6-10% every day, which is lower than in other countries. The authorities' goal is to have a flatter curve, which has the effect of prolonging the situation in time, but of possibly saving the health system from collapsing. The economic aftermath of something like this for an already struggling country like Portugal is unpredictable and we would ask you to pray for this nation and that they can get through all of this.

All gatherings are outlawed in Portugal at least until April 17<sup>th</sup>. We have been live streaming songs and a sermon on Sundays and using Zoom to have our weekly Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Our people have been sharing these online materials and some have had conversations with loved ones about spiritual matters because of it. Our children's ministry team have produced some videos for our church children as well. I've met at least one person, who has never been to our church, that told me he has been watching the online sermons. Please pray that the Lord would enlarge our vision and outreach during this time.

In February we had our teen winter camp and it was a huge blessing. We had a larger group than last year and good spirit throughout the camp. Apart from our teens, we had a good number of teens from other churches in the country. The theme of the camp was about the need to not conform to the culture around us, but how we can be transformed by the Gospel of Christ. Apart from the teens that attended, we had a great team from the church in Castelo Branco and from a missionary friend that was a huge blessing as well. Please pray for the impact of God's Word in raising an army of Portuguese Christians that will reach Portugal with the gospel in our generation.

We have started to pray about starting a Sunday afternoon service in the city of Covilhã and, as soon and the restrictions are lifted, we are ready to start a Tuesday night Bible Study in the city of Proença-a-Nova. At this location we have two families and possibly some other people interested in attending. We are also about to start a membership class in the city of Fundão to prayerfully start moving that church-plant towards organizing as an autonomous church.

We continue to have the goal to go back to the US in September for an extended furlough. Understandably, our booking of meetings has not advanced as churches in the US have been dealing with the Corona virus restrictions and focusing on how to minister to their people through this time. Nevertheless, if you would like to book us between September 2020 and April 2021, let us know and we will arrange the best date for that. We are available to come to your church, tell you about what the Lord is doing in Portugal and encourage your people to get even more involved with your ongoing missions' program. We have the opportunity, I believe through evangelism and church planting, to see in our generation, Portugal change their missions status from "unreached" to "reached", and you could be a part of that.

Thank you for your love and support for the ministry in Portugal.

**In His Service, Mark and Aura Pereira**

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