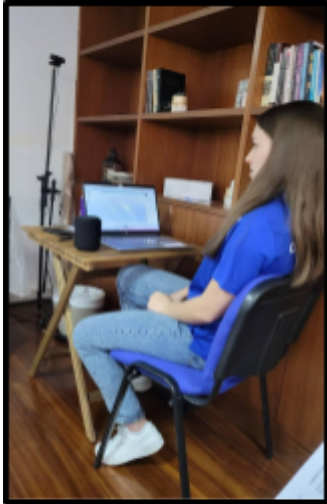


The Harding Family Porto, Portugal Update July 022

In August we, the Harding Family (Brandon, Diana, Isabella (20), and Victoria (19)) will celebrate 11 years in Portugal serving as missionaries. It is amazing how fast time flies. And what is even more amazing is God's faithfulness and goodness. Truly, He does "exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ask or think"!



Victoria working on tech

After serving for years in the English speaking community here in Porto, Portugal, God led us to start a Calvary Chapel in October 2018. We met on Sundays at the Black Tulip Hotel and had our midweek Bible studies at the local Starbucks! Then, in March of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit Portugal and all was shut down, including our church services and Bible Studies. So we "fearlessly" entered the virtual world of Livestream and Zoom! The Lord likes to push us out of our comfort zones, indeed. But He equipped us with people gifted in the ways of technology to help us through.

So fast forward to summer 2021. We made a furlough to the States for two months. Prior to leaving, we had been

telling our church to pray for God to provide a building for us to rent. The very week we returned to Portugal, we found our church building. Two weeks later we had the keys! Without going into all the details, this was truly God's doing! He passed us through all the red tape and bureaucracy so common here in Portugal. It is a beautiful place, with a fellowship area and a Sunday school room for children.



Sunday morning-it's a full house! In September we plan to go to two services.

And we have been making good use of our building, having meetings almost every day of the week in order to equip "the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ". One of our main objectives is to disciple

and raise up leaders in the church, locals who can carry on the ministry. In April we anointed and laid hands on Adriano Pinheiro as assistant pastor. We have a team of guys gifted as elders in training, and also ladies for women's ministry.

We always knew from the beginning, when the Lord moved us to Portugal, that we were called as a family to serve Him here. As Isabella and

Victoria are now young adults, we have the blessing of serving the Lord alongside them. They are each gifted differently and so appropriately as is needed for the needs of the ministry. Isabella is gifted in children's ministry and helps to translate weekly Bible studies from



Fellowship time after Sunday Service



Good Friday Service
(Sofia translating for Brandon)

English to Portuguese and vice-versa. While Victoria is one of those gifted in technology. It is because of her we can transmit our Sunday service live. She also helps with translation, a much needed ministry as we are a bilingual church. Isabella and Victoria help and serve in so many other countless ways. Truly they are essential to the ministry here. They are both enrolled in Calvary Chapel University, working towards their Bachelor's degrees in

Biblical Studies. And they both continue to play European Team Handball, being a light and witness to their teammates.



Isabella teaches the Girls Bible Study

As Calvary Chapel Grande Porto is becoming quite established, we have sensed the Lord stirring us to pray about future possibilities. Our desire has always been to see Bible teaching churches throughout Portugal. He has placed a particular city upon our hearts to begin to pray for, Braga. Braga is located about 45 minutes away from Porto. Years ago Brandon was impacted by graffiti he saw on the side of the Catholic church there, which read in Portuguese, "Love one another because God doesn't live here anymore". Recently we made a scouting trip there to pray over the city. We found more graffiti with similar sentiments, almost as though the people are



July Baptisms

Brandon sharing from the Word with Jonathan translating (right)
Douglas rejoicing after being baptized (top)
Brandon and Pinheiro (assistant Pastor) baptizing Ana (left)

crying out.

Please join us in praying for Braga and whatever part we, the Harding Family, are to play in it. We are praying for God to provide a ministry team with the call and giftings to start a work there. And of course, please pray for our current work at CC Grande Porto, for those God is raising up, for each person to take their place in the body and for us to reach the Portuguese with the Gospel.

Thank you for your love and support for us, for "standing in the gap" by praying for us and having a heart for what the Lord has called us to do in Portugal. We pray for you and thank God for you. You, too, are an essential part of our work here!

Please join us in praying for the following:

- Hearts of the Portuguese to be open to the Gospel
- the spiritual growth of those in our church
- those that God is raising up in leadership at CCGP
- For the health, safety and provision for our family
- Possible future church plant in Braga

P.S.

If you would like to know more about us and our ministry, please feel free to contact us via email at hardingfamilyministry@gmail.com.



The Harding Family
(Victoria, Brandon, Diana & Isabella)