

the LISBON

focus

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Hurry up and wait...

Waiting... hmmm... we aren't too good at that. We like to see things happening, moving in a direction, making progress. In our last letter, we presented a vision for a place we could meet as a church and also offer outreach programs to help us have some inroads into our community. It was our goal to have funds raised by April 1st, but since that didn't happen, we lost the opportunity to rent one of the buildings we had our eye on. But afterward, we felt complete peace that God let the happen on purpose. Shortly after April 1st, we had all of the money needed. We are so humbled by and grateful for those who have stepped up and invested in this ministry. We want to write them a long list of things that have been accomplished since they wrote their donation checks but... several things have had us in a holding pattern. On one building, we are receiving conflicting information on the installation of a costly fire sprinkler system. Another got rented out from under us. But just this week, we were informed of some interesting information by the lady we rent a room from for 3 hours on Sundays. Her husband has been transferred out of the area for work and she will be closing her tutoring center. This will discontinue the arrangement we have with her on Sundays, but she may be willing to sublet the whole building to us. Pray for wisdom and clear direction from the Lord so that we will choose the right opportunity.



God's plans are better than our plans...

Something else God knew that we didn't was that we would be receiving a letter from our landlord that would raise our rent by 40%. It was necessary for us to move, and with so much demand in our area, hardly anything is for rent. Amazingly, through a friend of a friend, we were able to move into an apartment on the same street as our current apartment and meeting place. It was just one building over, and she was willing to accept the same rent.

If you've moved a family of five, you know how much work it is, but all in all, it was an "easy" move as we moved things down one elevator and up another.

In hindsight (and as we still are finishing the painting and cleaning of the 'old apartment' to turn the keys back in and get our deposit back), it would have been extremely difficult or impossible for us to have undertaken a church building project and a move at the same time. Our middle child is still mourning the new storage space that his bike is housed in, but other than that, the "new place" is starting to feel a bit more like home. We are most grateful we did not lose the relationships we have been building with our neighbors and neighboring businesses.



One victory was the completion of the several-month-long-project of having our church paperwork approved and made official by the government. While we recognize this does not make a church a church, it dots our i's and crosses our t's with our community and allows us to operate in a credible and fiscally upstanding way.



As we end this school year, summer camp is right around the corner. Beau will be the main speaker in the evenings this year and Valerie will speak to a group of girls each morning. Our

oldest will be a camper this year, which is so hard to fathom, but she is over-the-moon excited about it. We are praying God will allow us to take some kids to camp from our new area. Valerie invited her haircutter's son, Rodrigo, and he and a friend are very interested. Please pray that God will work (as He already is working) in these kids' lives. Camp is always a very fruitful part of our ministry.



Beau and Valerie Moore

P.O. Box 191 Springfield, MO 65801 beau2portugal@gmail.com www.moores2portugal.com