

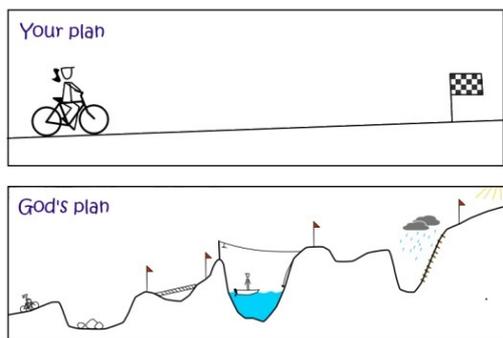
# the LISBON

focus

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## Our Plans vs. God's Plans



Yesterday I shared this image with our church WhatsApp group because I felt that it defines so much of our conversation lately, as a body. It even illustrates the current subject of our ladies' Bible study, "Cultivating Contentment."

We joyfully and readily accept "good" from the hand of God, and give Him credit, as we should, for "every good and perfect gift" comes from Him. But we are also quick to assign any bump in the road as a jab from Satan himself. How inaccurate our theology is and how wrong our attitude is to accept good from the hand of God, but to reject the hard, the bad, and the ugly, whilst we are commanded to give thanks in all things, and to rejoice when we fall into diverse temptations.

I share this with you because I know that it transverses the dividing lines of country and culture, and unites us in our struggle to accept and live God's plan in our lives. Though Scripture promises us His plan is higher and better than ours, we doubt that very much as soon as the slightest inconvenience finds us. As we pray for you in this regard, I would ask that you pray for us, as well. As we sometimes count the cost of living out God's plan on the mission field in terms of our happiness, personal fulfilment, health, marriage, bank account, education, children, or other vitally important subjects, we can become discouraged if we apply fleshly thinking and measuring sticks. If we as "mature Christians" struggle, so much more the baby Christians in our care. Because of the confidence I have in our prayer warriors, I bring to you some of the names of those in our ministry who are struggling with this theme.

Oliver, a 28 year old young professional, faithful in attendance, tithe, and supporting the church planting effort in Portugal, struggles to find a

Christian wife in a country where there are so few Christians, particularly Christians his age, let alone one he is romantically attracted to. He wants to be faithful to the Scriptures but just last week wondered if the cost of a wife is too high a price to pay. (This is the point where we see so many of our most faithful drop out of church). Adriana, mother of two, is growing tremendously but struggles as she weighs the choices and consequences of continuing or discontinuing a marriage to an unbelieving, unfaithful man. Filomena is a lady in her sixties who has dug about an inch deep into every church and religious system she could find. She is learning to decipher truth based on God's Word and abandon her biases that are against it. She doesn't see her adult children and grandchildren often or long enough to fill a deep loneliness she feels, that really can only be found in Christ. Marcelo came to know Christ many years into family life, making him the only Christian among his immediate and extended family. He spent almost a year with us before moving to another city so his adult daughter could attend university there and is missing the support and encouragement of the local church. Carla's husband died when their two boys were small, a subsequent husband committed suicide, and her most recent partner left without warning. She longs for healing and hope and is finding both in the Scriptures as she attends ladies' Bible study and services when she can. She admits she is close to salvation, but not quite there yet. We are praying for her as her faith grows through the hearing of the Word.

It is our desire to see a healthy, New Testament church planted in the area God has placed us, and we know that happens one soul at a time.

## Countdown to Furlough 2020

As we are now only 7 months away from furlough, we are astonished at how quickly time is passing. Beau has been diligently contacting pastors and churches, booking meetings and planning our schedule. As we mentioned in our previous letter, we are praying, watching, and waiting to see how God will supply a need that is a crucial detail for our time stateside: transportation. We are praying that God would impress on someone's heart to give, lend, rent, or sell us a vehicle with a 12,000 lb. towing capacity to pull our camper, allowing us to travel as a family. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

**Beau and Valerie Moore**

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