

the LISBON

focus

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Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support! We are happy to share with you how God is working in our lives. We hope that this report is as encouraging to you as it is to us! God bless!

Talking in Circles

We have tried a number of ways to enlarge our “sphere of influence” and meet new people with some success. We are beginning to understand that Portuguese keep a very small circle including their family and just a few good friends. It isn’t easy to make the cut, but once you’re “in”, you’re “in”. The more “circles” you have in common with them, the more they feel they know you, and the more they trust you. The advantage to this is, that when they introduce you to someone else in their circle, you are automatically accepted into that person’s circle and thus, enlarge your own circle. If it seems that I am talking in circles, let me share an example. Celeste has lived across the street from Carol and Lionel for 14 years. For the first several years, she would not even reply to a “hello” or “good afternoon.” Eventually, they started exchanging Christmas cookies, but that still didn’t warrant enough trust to be friendly. Celeste got a flyer in the mail for English classes and signed up on the church website, not knowing that Carol was the teacher of that particular class – another circle. She then also began bumping into Beau and Lionel at the gym that she is also a member at – another circle. The more circles we have in common with her, the friendlier she becomes, especially with Carol. She has come as far as offering Carol a ride home after class one day and discussing the possibility of dinner together one evening. This is the beginning of a true friendship and what we hope to be spiritual fruit. Celeste and her husband have recruited another couple and another single lady into Beau’s English class and they all talk amongst themselves as if we are part of a little “group” or “club” because we not only have the English class and gym in common, but also the friendship with Celeste. We are eager to be included in as many circles as God will provide to share the gospel with “friends” ☺.

...able to teach others also...

Valerie and Thais have been discipling for nearly a year. When they finish one Bible study, Thais asks to start another. Valerie is encouraged by Thais’ spiritual growth and fruit. They both started praying for a high school friend Thais had a burden for, Mariana. She had invited her to church several times, but Mariana’s family is devout Catholic and attends mass at one of the largest and most famous monasteries in Portugal – Jeronimo’s. For no reason at all, one Sunday she was allowed to come to church with Thais. She and Valerie talked at length after the service about the interest Mariana has in spiritual things (a true rarity for young people in Portugal) and how she has taken many elective classes at the Catholic Church to learn more about God and prophecy and other topics that interest her. (Jeronimo’s Monastery pictured below).



Valerie suggested the three of them (Valerie, Thais, and Mariana) meet for a weekly Bible study to which she agreed. The first lesson they established the divine inspiration, perfection, and authority of the Word of God. They covered some basic facts about the Bible such as the division of the Old and New Testaments, the original languages the Bible was written in, the collection of 66 books, and the big numbers for chapters and little numbers for verses – all things she had never heard before. She is excited to be able to find a verse on her own in the Bible. Please pray for her salvation as they continue to meet on a weekly basis and for Thais as she learns to disciple others.

Beau and Valerie Moore

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