

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!

Falas Português?



As we mentioned in our last letter, it was our plan to enroll Avery in a Portuguese preschool a few days/week for the purpose of learning Portuguese. It required a collection of 12 different official documents such as birth certificates, residency cards, doctor's consent, etc. But it also required us to apply for Avery's own "fiscal number" (like a tax ID #) as

well as file taxes that stated she had "0" income in Portugal. Well, I should hope so, she is 3. Needless to say, it took 6 weeks for all of the paperwork to go through the "office" to allow her to start attending school. Here is a picture of her on her first day. She is starting to pick up words here and there and inserts them appropriately. She also often speaks English with a "Portuguese accent" when she doesn't know the word in Portuguese she wants to say. As I read her a book where "the cat says..." she interrupted me and said, "Mom, cats don't know how to talk. They don't know how to say, "Como é que te chamas?" (What's your name?) She is very happy there and we are happy with the progress she is making.

We are also happy to announce the arrival of a little baby boy in August. We appreciate any prayers on our behalf for a healthy pregnancy, delivery, and also transition to sibling-hood for Avery.



Ready? Set. GO!

Ready or not, we hit the ground running when we got back to Portugal in January. Our colleagues, Lionel and Carol Martin, got us up to speed, passed off the baton, and "fled the country" for furlough just a few weeks after we arrived. Our first major event was winter camp in the mountains. The only mountain, in fact, that gets snow in Portugal. We took 14, not including Paisley who also tagged along since

we didn't have a dog-sitter ☺. Here, she is enjoying the view from our cabin. We took 3 unsaved kids, including Henrique, the son of a couple that attends the English classes we offer at our church. We are happy to see some fruit coming from that ministry. Though he did not make a profession, he listened well, enjoyed his time, and plans to come to camp with us again this summer.



With only two drivers, it was necessary to maximize vehicle space to get everyone to camp. **In February, we went ahead and purchased the van we had been raising money for on furlough.** We found a great deal and had peace that this was just the one! Though we had only raised about 75% of our goal, the mission office loaned us the difference to be able to go ahead and purchase it. We are still praying for that other 25% to come in. This van has been such a blessing already!! Thank you for those who have participated in this project!

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