

the LISBON

focus

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Even as early as deputation, God placed a burden on our heart for a *youth center* in the city where we would be working. It so happens that our church is located a block away from a middle school, and we have lots of “young” traffic pass our doors and sometimes peer in at our ping-pong table. While some of our church’s ministries have struggled this year, our youth ministries have gone strong – and the good attendance has even surprised us, “o we of little faith.” We have eyed and prayed over the empty **storefront next to our church**, longing and hoping it could one day be such a youth center.



We have been in contact with the storefront owner over the years while the asking price stayed beyond our reach. Between what Lionel and Carol raised while on furlough this year and what a few of our churches have contributed, we have about \$24,000 – a far cry from the \$165,000 asking price. All of a sudden, a flurry of events made this building attainable. The mission office announced there were **NO-INTEREST LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE** to our team because of some in-office changes to the project offering. If we would say the word, they would deposit it into our account. Shocker. Then, without warning, the storefront owner suddenly *accepted our most recent offer* of \$80,000. Meanwhile, the storefront owner offers to collect the **signatures** needed from the rest of the owners in the building that will allow us to use the building for “religious purposes.” This was the main obstacle and “hold back” when processing the paperwork 7 years ago for our church building. Over fifty percent of the residents needed to agree in order for the paperwork to be submitted to the local government, and we finally squeaked by with 51% and

that was only because the owner selling the storefront still owned a good portion of the building and could sign for several. THEN, many were resistant to the church being in their building, but this week Lionel listened to the owner talk to **one of the residents** on the phone who said, “*Sure, I’ll sign. The church has never bothered anyone.*” Wow, what a change of tune! Just a few days later, we already have 54% of the signatures! The next step is to present \$41,500 in cash within two weeks. God has worked miraculously so far, we have to believe He will provide this money. Beau prays like he once heard Eli Harju pray during one of his college mission classes, “**GOD, SELL ONE OF THE COWS ON YOUR THOUSAND HILLS AND HELP OUT THIS MISSIONARY!**”

A note from Beau:

“Today as I walked the streets of our little borough of Lisbon distributing invitations to our church along with a Romans road tract, I became privy to two bits of information saddened me. First, our former neighbor’s mother passed away this last week. Second, an 80 year old man I have spoken to daily for the past few years has been moved to a nursing home. He has no family left here and no one seems to know any more information other than ‘a nursing home’. Both of these people had the opportunity to hear a clear presentation of the gospel, though neither accepted. This immediately made me think, ‘...today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell... ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.’ (James 4:13-14). We have given our lives to the cause of seeing a church built in Lisbon and have our little list of goals and plans, but we have no idea how much time we have to do it. This little ‘track-walk’ filled me with a sense of urgency to open this youth center as quickly as possible. \$17,500 is what we need within two weeks. It is probable that ONE church has the ability to give the whole amount, but in our ministry, **we feel our ‘success’ is best measured by the number of people we involve in missions.** What a blessing to be used by God to bless others. Our prayer is that you will want to be used! No amount is too small... even a \$10 gift can purchase a board game. During this season of gift-giving, if you choose to be involved, please contact us ASAP to let us know a dollar amount as we communicate with the owner to get the contract signed. We love watching God’s hand at work!

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