

the LISBON focus

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If you are a person who notices detail, maybe you would notice a difference in our letterhead which would give you a glimpse into the life of a missionary; as we began to make the transition from furlough in the states to moving back to the field, several weeks ago we began thinking through what we would need for 3 more weeks in the states, then 3 more weeks on the field before the items we shipped would arrive. Consider 2 adults, 2 kids + a baby on the way (who may or may not be born before the stuff gets here), and a dog – cover all your bases from cool, warm, camping, and preaching apparel, maternity, non-maternity, shoes of all sorts, electronics, books, important documents, and favorite blankies & toys. Lo and behold, as we sat down to write a prayer letter, we realized we packed the hard drive that the prayer letter files are saved on – so while we did not intend to recreate or improve our letterhead, we chuckle as it is a difference that reminds us how transient our life STYLE is and how temporary this life is. *This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through* – me and all my stuff ☺.

I write this letter during a layover at the airport, so at this point, all that stuff is packed and checked-in.

I am sitting here thinking over the past month, which has flown by. It has been a month of checking things off of our to-do list in preparation for today: the day we fly back to Portugal. We fit in all of the necessary doctor and vet appointments, the kids finished school, we closed on our house with no hiccups or delays, we sold our vehicles, we went to our last booked church service, attended a retreat put on by the missions office for our refreshment and edification, spent this weekend at a family reunion with Beau's family, received cards and well wishes at our send-off party from our sending church, made the trek to Kansas to say good-bye to Valerie's family, did one last load of laundry, packed our bags, and made our way to the Kansas City airport.

What a great year we have had in the states, being encouraged and refreshed by so many, preparing for our next phase of ministry. There are many unknowns in our future, but just as God has given us the grace and patience to accomplish our task list one item at a time, He will provide the wisdom and faith we need to follow Him one step at a time through the many changes in the next few months.



We would ask you to pray specifically for three things in the immediate future:

1. Wisdom for the doctors who will continue to monitor Valerie's pregnancy, with the outcome of a healthy baby and mama, of course.
2. For us to quickly find a house with our list of quirky "preferences" including decent parking options and light-footed neighbors (think apartment life with a newborn) ☺ But ultimately and more importantly, a house in the right area surrounded by the right neighbors, whose hearts God is preparing to hear the gospel.
3. Youth camp right around the corner. Every year, there has been an increase in the number of campers, and this year is no exception. There will be a record high, which is a record number of opportunities, and a record amount of work to be done ☺. May God have his will and way this week in the hearts of these teenagers.

Thank you for remembering us before the Lord and faithfully uplifting us in prayer and sustaining us with your support. We are privileged to be part of a wonderful team getting the gospel to the uttermost.