

the LISBON

focus

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School's in session...

For every missionary I have been acquainted with, which is quite a few, schooling their children is a challenging and dreadfully important issue: one that lots of worry and prayer goes into. Not all families are meant to **homeschool**, and for the ones that are able to, homeschooling the right way is a full-time job, and can limit your availability to other ministries. Every country's **national school system** varies in quality of education and level of secularism, and is not always the right option. **Boarding schools** are less available these days and many families are unwilling to send their children away for an education. Parents worry if they are sacrificing their children's education for the sake of the gospel, or if they are putting them under more pressure than they can bear in the public school system. Some missionaries "**bring**" a teacher with them – an individual whose ministry is to educate those children, freeing up the parents' times for other ministries. Very few are fortunate enough to have a schooling option that doesn't give them a bit of a knot in their stomach.

We are incredibly grateful that we have the opportunity to send our children to a Christian, English-speaking school with a standard American curriculum that prepares them for college in the U.S. should they so choose. All of the staff is made up of teachers who have raised support as missionaries to keep tuition costs affordable and treat the school and students as their ministry.



Valerie graduated from this school as an mk (missionary kid) and although our primary ministry is church planting, we have had the

unique opportunity to teach here as well. Valerie teaches *high school choir and 15 piano students*. Beau teaches *7-12 grade Bible* to a dozen different nationalities. Several are from Nepal, whose parents moved to Portugal to open Nepalese restaurants. In 2011, Beau was able to lead one of those Nepalese boys to the Lord. He has since returned to Nepal, a "creative access nation" (one by which missionaries cannot enter as Christian workers, but must find other means such as medical, journalist, etc.). Who knows what God can do with a group of young people who are introduced to the true God and Creator of the Universe, and influenced by His servants on a daily basis throughout their years of schooling before returning to Nepal.

Last week, all of the students took a field trip to a "Discovery Park" closely related to "Answers in Genesis". It was a great experience.



Just today, we received word from the Chemistry teacher that **Rinkesh**, a junior we have been praying for, stayed after school to ask him some questions about when he became a Christian and how it affected his relationship with his unsaved parents. Please continue to pray for this unique ministry, for the kids that need to know Christ, and for the mk's who are facing the normal struggles of "growing up", plus some added challenges unique to this country and culture.

If you are a teacher, please consider ministering cross-culturally for a year. We can't begin to tell you the spiritual benefits of such an experience. Contact us. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have!

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