



# Newsletter

*Filipe Samuel  
Rodrigues*

January 2019

## Planting Seeds for the Future

Happy New Year dear friends! 2018 has come to a close and 2019 is already underway, and there are new developments to share, praises to be given, and prayer requests to carry to the Lord.

The final months of 2018 saw the birth of a project of our team here in Portugal which we had been dreaming of for a long time: *CCI Semanal* - a series of weekly encounters for children designed to teach life skills, critical thinking, and (try to) instil in them a love for learning. These characteristics are fundamental to any type of success and are especially necessary for developing leaders - sadly, they are also rarely addressed by the school system here in Portugal. The goal of these weekly encounters is to produce a generation that is well equipped to apply the God-given tools of intellect, emotional intelligence, Christian values, and healthy habits to success in all areas of life, and to do so with the vision of the Kingdom of God.

To accomplish this, the weekly encounters regularly feed in interactive, explorative lessons in 9 fundamental areas - numbers and shapes, letters and verbal/written communication, languages and cultures, arts and audiovisual communication, music, drama, sciences, sport, and nature. Each lesson is presented from a Christian perspective and reinforces healthy habits of play, asking and answering questions, and social interaction through a dynamic lesson that feels more like “directed exploration of new topics” than a traditional “class lesson”.



We have yet to see non-believers come to these weekly encounters due to the fact that our marketing has largely been limited to the Christian circles that know the decades of CCI’s work with summer and holiday camps. However, we believe that the high quality of teaching, the fun the kids have, and a lack of other programs with a holistic vision make *CCI Semanal* a potentially fruitful point of contact with non-believers who would never come to church events, but might engage with a program like this one.

It has been gratifying to see the project gain traction in spite of being new - we already have 8 children who are committed to participating and hope to see that number grow over the winter. After a first trimester, parents’ feedback at our Christmas Open House was overwhelmingly positive.

## Please pray with us for:

- the little leaders-in-development that are already participating in the project and those who will come to participate over the coming weeks and months, that each one would grow to love God, themselves, and their neighbour holistically as the Scriptures teach.
- the leaders who have faithfully invested their time, energy, and creativity in this fledgling project, that they would be encouraged by our early successes and would continue to pursue excellence in their planning, teaching, and discipling of these precious little lives.
- the parents who have entrusted their children to the project and who invest in our success with their time and finances, that they would continue to be encouraged by the results of the project and would help us with “word of mouth” marketing, which is particularly effective in Portuguese culture.
- God’s continued provision of finances, leaders, new students, and contact with new families and churches who can benefit from the project.



Thanks for your continued prayers and your support of our ministry - it is helping to make a difference by contributing to the development of a generation better equipped to serve the Lord and lead others in the building of the Kingdom.