



José, Elisa & Filipe Rodrigues

November 2020

Dear Friends,

Here are some matters for thanksgiving.

Church premises

- Through the European Mission Fellowship, churches and individuals had sent gifts that covered beyond the €20,000 we planned to have as a mortgage. We are very thankful to those churches and individuals that sent generous gifts.
- The new phase has started - namely to renew the toilets, build a small kitchen, replace two windows and decorating.

Encouragements

- We are encouraged with the experience of having all the meetings available on Zoom and at the same time having people attending at Alto do Moinho and Azoia. During this difficult time of COVID19, we have outreached more people than before COVID19. Most Sundays, we get over fifty people attending the Sunday morning meeting.
- All those that have come to us this past year or so, are coming still. Just mention Sergio (29), Patricia (21) and Isabel (in her fifties).
- One other continued encouragement is the Sunday School for adults and for children. It is a blessing to have a good group of people committed to this demanding but blessed work.
- The situation with Elisa's illness. Though she has been referred to be followed-up at home with palliative care, so far it has not been necessary. This week she has been adventurous and has done some cooking, and as a result, she feels more tired. But she has had joy in doing it. The volume of her belly has been stabilized, and the doctor is doing all the necessary medicine adjustments. She is without pain. With the Zoom facilities, Elisa has been able to maintain involvement with the ladies' meetings and continues to lead a monthly meeting for pastor's wives. So far, she has been able to attend all the online meetings. We have also to give thanks for the fact that her illness has provided opportunities for fellowship and witnessing the grace of God to our everyday living. Last week I was speaking with one of my cousins in Azoia, and she knew all about Elisa, because she follows and reads Elisa on Facebook. Some people from the church continue caring in practical jobs related with the home. Some others are cooking meals, others entertain in different ways. There are good efforts trying to make things as pleasant and easy as possible.

Matters for prayer

- The necessary works to be done for the church's new premises.
- For the preaching and teaching at this peculiar time. Recently, Fabiano Fernandes, Director of the Portuguese Bible Institute, is preaching for us the first and second Sunday of each month. He is as much appreciated as well as a blessing to the pastoral ministry.

- For strength and wisdom to lead with the demanding situations of online meetings, especially the work with children.
- For all the students and teachers on different Bible courses.
- For Elisa. She is very confident in her faith, taking every opportunity to witness the hope of eternal life, to doctors, nurses, and many others that can be outreached by social networks, phone, e-mail and so on.
- So far there has only been one single lady that has contracted COVID19. She is recovering well and, to our knowledge there has not been any other case.
- For unemployed people, like Jorge, Patricia and Jessica. They have all been without work for a long time.
- Daniel Rodrigues has been able to do a few small jobs. It helps him financially as well as emotionally.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pr.^(s) Jose and Filipe Rodrigues



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