



May 2021

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9

Dear friends,

Two months have passed since we sent our last update. We are glad to say that the country has improved from the chaotic situation of the beginning of the year.

Things are still difficult, but not as much as it was at the beginning of the year. Now that the country is coming out of the lockdown, the fragility of the economy is more and more evident. Many people have not got a job to go back to, for many of the businesses have no economic conditions to restart.

The Portuguese vaccination program is much slower than the UK but moving forward. The government has promised that all the population over 30 years old, will be vaccinated by August. Let's hope it will be so!

As mentioned in the last prayer letter, one family of five people from the church in Azoia got the virus. They all recovered at home without hospitalization. So far, no other people from the church have got the virus.

Coming out of this long lockdown, the local churches are reorganizing meetings and activities. As for ourselves, things are moving forward and making some positive progress. Though, all of our meetings still have the option of online and in-person. To attend in-person, people have to observe all the restrictions with social distancing and the use of masks. But even with the restrictions, gradually, the in-person is increasing.

The work at the new premises is making some progress. We would like to finish most of it by the end of June and celebrate there the church's 35th anniversary, on 4th July.

Matters for thanksgiving

- The blessing of having technology to hold all the meetings through this long time of lockdown.
- To give thanks for the extra strength the Lord has given us to deal with difficult issues at the church.
- For even in lockdown, we are outreaching people that have not attended church before.
- That only one family from the church has got the virus, and none needed hospitalization.
- For strength and wisdom given to the children Sunday School team. They have been a blessing in this long ongoing online teaching.
- Two of the four unemployed people mentioned in the last prayer letter have now got temporary jobs. Namely, Jessica and Daniel.

Matters for prayer

- For the economic situation of the country and for the many families in need
- The necessary work that has to be done to prepare the new premises of the church. We hoped to have most of the works done by the end of June, but it may take more time as we are trying to do most of the work ourselves.
- For the preaching and teaching and pastoral care in this peculiar time.
- For Elisa. She is very confident in her faith, taking every opportunity to witness to her hope of eternal life, to doctors, nurses, and many others that can be reached by social groups, phone, email, and so on.

Her present situation. Two weeks ago, at the Oncology hospital, the doctor took 1.5 litres of liquid from her left lung and 4 litres from her abdomen. Further exams a week later proved that the fluid is not stabilized but increasing significantly. So, the doctors team decided that Elisa should be hospitalized, at least for one week. The intervention would be to remove all the fluid from her lungs and try to stop the fluid getting to the lungs. She expects at any moment to hear from the hospital, for her hospitalization. There is some expectation that it can happen as soon as tomorrow or after tomorrow.

- For Jorge and Patricia, they have been unemployed for a long time.
- Pray for the elderly people, as these are the ones who suffer more from the isolation caused by the lockdown. A few of them have been helped to access the online technologies, but not all yet can make it.
- That the Lord will heal our heartache concerning Filipe and work in his life.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

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