

# The Smiths in Portugal

## Dan and Rachael

**December 2025**

Dear praying friends,

We are writing from the lovely Ozarks as we begin our six-month furlough! Just today our last chickadee arrived back home in Portugal after a wonderful family time over Christmas. We are so thankful that Beth, Alyssa and Andrew, and Annette were all able to join us in Springfield for Christmas. We took a real sabbatical as a family and focused on spending time with our family here in the area and completing a joint bucket list!

As we reflect back over this last year, we are so grateful to see how God keeps leading and providing for the needs of the ministry. God continues to bring new people to the church, both who need to hear the gospel, and those who are growing in their faith and service to the Lord. It's exciting to see God build His church. Since Portalegre has six colleges, we have had an increase in foreign students. Some of them have been to church, but didn't have a personal relationship with Christ. It has been a blessing to see them recognize their need, believe genuinely on the Lord, and be baptized. Others were already serving the Lord in their churches and jumped right in here with us. Most of them stay just over a year to complete their masters' degrees, but some are choosing to stay.

Some exciting news for our members is that a few were able to get their Portuguese citizenship, which allows them to move around freely and opens many more work opportunities. For those who prayed for Zhang for so long, he is finally a legal resident of Portugal, instead of a refugee from China, and he has worked very hard to learn Portuguese well, learn to drive, bought a car, and has now been certified to drive semis. After so many years of working the ovens at the rubber factory, he is happy to have other options for work.

We are thankful for the families God has brought that have grown in their ability and desire to serve in the church. While we away these months, Annette and several others have stepped up to help Scott and Norma with teaching classes in the schools, teaching children's classes, discipleship, occasional preaching, and taking care of the day to day needs of the church. Please pray for the Edwards as they continue without us. We know God will supply and bless their ministry.

We would appreciate your prayers these next months as Rachael and I travel many miles and share updates on the ministry. Next week, while we are in the Northwest we will be staying with unsaved family and we are praying for God to once again open conversations with them. We will also celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary this month. We are so thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness and look forward to what He has in store for the future!

Thank you for your faithful prayer support,  
Dan and Rachael Smith



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