

The Lisbon Church of Christ Partners with Us!

There is nothing like being welcomed by a congregation of believers when traveling abroad to help you feel at home and to show you God's purpose for the church. The *Igreja de Cristo Lisboa* (Church of Christ in Lisbon, or ICL) welcomed each member of our team from day one and invited us to participate with them in what God is doing in Portugal. We have been blessed by the opportunity to be a part of the body of Christ in Lisbon.

At ICL's recent planning meeting, the team presented opportunities for the church to get involved in the work in Angola. We invited ICL to partner with us by corresponding with World Bible School students from Angola, by helping us to create and translate materials, by teaching us about Angolan culture, and by praying for us. We also encouraged church members to visit us in Angola. Who better to come and help out with the work on the field than those who already speak the language?

ICL was enthusiastic about participating with us and twenty-two people signed up to help. Because of the unique relationship that we

have with ICL, we have begun a Portuguese edition of this newsletter so that they can receive our updates as well. We also hope to have a Portuguese version of the team website in the next few months in order to keep the Portuguese-speaking world informed about the Lord's work in Angola.

As we prepare to depart for Angola, we are being sent, not only by our church families in the States, but by our church family in Portugal as well. Just like our church families in the States, we know that ICL hates to see us go. At the same time, they understand why we go and send us with joy in their hearts. We are so thankful for our ICL family, and we too will miss them very much.

~ Teague Meyer



Discussing WBS materials

ANGOLA
MISSION TEAM

*Planting Churches
Nurturing Growth
Harvesting a Nation*

The Angola Team:

*Rusty, Laura, Alex &
Stephen Campbell*

Nathan Holland

*Robert, Teague,
Efesson & Biruk Meyer*

*Danny, Katie, Eliana &
Sophia Reese*

Jordan Yarbrough

*"... you are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with
God's people and also
members of his household,
built on the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, with
Christ Jesus himself as the
chief cornerstone. In him
the whole building is joined
together and rises to
become a holy temple in the
Lord. And in him you too
are being built together to
become a dwelling in which
God lives by his Spirit."*

~Ephesians 2:19-22



Prayer Requests

- *Pray for urgency and efficiency throughout the visa application and approval process (see Visa Update, below).*
- *Pray for us as we continue to fine-tune our mission strategy.*
- *Pray for our continued language studies.*
- *Pray that our relationships with one another will be deepened and strengthened during our time in Portugal.*
- *Pray for us as we make preparations to move to Angola.*
- *Pray for the health and safety of all team members.*
- *Pray for the health of Laura and Baby Campbell throughout the pregnancy.*
- *Pray for our fundraising. All team families are still seeking monthly and one-time support.*
- *Pray for growing and fruitful relationships between each family and their sending congregations.*
- *Pray for our partnership with the Lisbon Church of Christ.*
- *Pray for the Angolan people.*
- *Pray for the Angolan Christians.*

Visa Update

At long last, the final documentation required for our visa applications was recently issued by the Angolan government! Praise God! Now, however, it seems that the Angolan consulate is closed until further notice, so we are unable to submit our applications. Your continued prayers for our visa situation are appreciated.

My Angolan Family

I often find the Angolan concept of “family” amusing. Someone may say that “so-and-so” is their brother, sister, cousin, aunt, uncle, or grandparent. If you inquire about the specifics of that relationship, be prepared for a long and complicated explanation that you just may not understand. In many cases, there may not even be any blood connection, but they are considered family nonetheless. Many different circumstances may cause people to become family. In Angola, many families were separated from each other during the war; new family bonds were created by those who shared lives and experiences together.

My first real glimpse into this world began last year when I moved in with an Angolan family from church, Rogério and Celestina Makiese, and their three children, Rogério Dula, Amanda, and Noémia. The Makiese family had recently moved from a tiny apartment in downtown Lisbon to a larger house a little farther out of town. I was at their house for lunch one day after church when I jokingly asked Rogério Dula if he wanted a roommate. He got really excited about the idea and asked his parents. They told me that God had pro-

vided them a new home so that they could use it for His Kingdom. Since I was going to take the gospel to their homeland and their people, it was their duty to take me in. Further, it would be irresponsible for me not to move in with them! I couldn’t argue with that, but I really had no idea what I was getting myself into when I moved in a week later.

Initially, I thought that living with the Makiese family would provide opportunities to practice my Portuguese, learn about Angolan culture, and acclimate to Angolan food. And of course it has been all of those things, but it has been so much more. I now have an Angolan family in Portugal; they are not “like family;” they *are* my family. It will be just as hard to leave my family in Portugal as it was to leave my American family. But I am blessed beyond measure to have families in the US and Portugal that love and support me. The Makiese family are without a doubt the biggest blessing that God has given me in the last year and they will be my family *para sempre*.

~ Nathan Holland



Nathan and the Makiese family