



Seedtime & Harvest

Field Notes from Angola

Language Learning in Lisbon

In May, the Reeses and the Meyers arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, joining Nathan Holland, Jordan Yarbrough, and the Campbells, who had already been living there for some months. For the first time in its history, the entire Angola team is now living in the same city! We have been enjoying the “togetherness” that living in such close proximity allows. It is wonderful to have teammates to help and encourage us as we learn Portuguese and adjust to another culture.

Of course, our main purpose in being in Portugal these next few months is to learn Portuguese. Our

days are filled with classes and homework. We are thankful for the patience of our language teacher, Eunice Carapeto (pictured below), who makes her living teaching missionaries headed to Portuguese-speaking countries. Her knowledge of the Portuguese language and culture has been invaluable. And, as we are living in Portugal, most of our daily activities involve opportunities to learn and practice Portuguese — from riding the bus, to grocery shopping, to watching TV, to going to church.

We have been attending the church of Christ here in

Lisbon, and have been very blessed by the relationships we are forming there. The church is a diverse mix of nationalities, including some Angolans. What an encouragement it is to find brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world! We have discovered several ways to be involved in the activities of the church. In July, some of our group helped out with this year’s summer camp for the young people. We pray that we can continue to serve and be a blessing to this body of believers during our time in Portugal.

~ Laura Campbell

The Angola Team:

Rusty, Laura, Alex & Stephen Campbell

Nathan Holland

Robert, Teague, Efesson & Biruk Meyer

Danny, Katie, Eliana & Sophia Reese

Jordan Yarbrough

Planting churches, nurturing growth, harvesting a nation.

Timeline

*Fall —
Apply for Angolan visas*

*November —
Tentative two-week house-hunting trip to Huambo (men only)*

*December —
Complete language studies*

*January, 2011 —
Ship container*

*Early 2011 —
Relocate to Angola*



Girls' class with Eunice, our teacher

September, 2010

Prayer Requests:

- *Praise that we are all finally in Portugal together!*
- *Praise that all team families now have **sponsoring congregations!***
- *Praise for our newest team member, **Sophia Reese**, born in July.*
- *Praise for a blessed and productive **time with the Trulls, our team coaches**, in July.*
- *Pray for our **language studies**.*
- *Pray for the men as they begin to plan a **house-hunting trip** to Angola this fall.*
- *Pray that we will receive our **visas to Angola** quickly and easily.*
- *Pray for our **fundraising** — several team families are still seeking monthly and one-time support.*
- *Pray for us as we continue to fine-tune our **strategy** in the coming months.*
- *Pray that our **relationships** with one another will be deepened and strengthened during our time in Portugal.*

Key to Success: Good Mentors

By most accounts, we are a well-prepared mission team. We each have undergraduate degrees from Christian universities. Among us, we have accumulated more than 230 hours of graduate level Bible and ministry courses. As a team, we completed six workshops with Missions Resource Network designed to prepare missionaries for the field, as well as a “strategy lab” hosted by Kairos Church Planting. With our families combined, we have a cumulative 9 years experience in inner city ministry, 4 years experience in vocational ministry in Japan, 3 years experience in rural church work, and three missionary kids.

On the other hand, we are young and inexperienced. Simply put, we’re all between 26 and 37 years old and none of us have ever planted a new church in any context.

We believe we can compensate for this lack of experience by surrounding ourselves with experienced mentors who will coach us as we dive into this new mission work. We praise God for our professors and for the former and current missionaries

at MRN and Kairos that have helped equip us for this work. Each adult on our team has also chosen an experienced missionary to be a personal mentor – someone with whom he/she will communicate regularly about the work and the health of his/her family on the field. Our team has also chosen a couple, Rick and Marinda Trull, who coach us in our preparation, strategy, and progress in our work.

Rick and Marinda ministered in Meru, Kenya for 10 years. Rick is now the director of the Missions Program at Faulkner University and an elder at the Fort Deposit Church of Christ. Marinda is a practicing nurse.

In July, Rick and Marinda visited us for the first time ‘on the field’ here in Portugal. Their visit was a great source of encouragement for us, and we talked about our evolving strategy, our progress in language learning, and maintaining healthy family and team relationships on the field. We thank God that our ‘team’ includes Christians like Rick and Marinda who serve His mission by investing themselves in us.

~ Robert Meyer



The Angola Team with the Trulls, November 2009