

BE ONE TOGETHER

One and a half million people, youth from many different nations arrived to Lisbon in August to hear Pope Francis. I was surprised by the singularity of many things, eyes drawn to pretty words, words of social welfare, but words which were empty of the essence of Jesus Christ. The Pope came, attracted crowds and left. However, the thousands of young men and women remain hopeless, without God as they live in this world. They are still searching for the Door of Salvation.



"Speak and do not be quiet." We are summoned to claim this message. Jesus is the door, but how will people hear if there is not anyone to spread his Gospel, and how will people spread it if there is no one to send? The task is for all. Some go out to the fields, others stay in the backline. From wherever you are, fight with us so that more and more Portuguese people may become citizens of Heaven.

Summer is the time for holidays and youth camps. From Cartaxo, we are taking five young men to spend a whole week with great teachings from the Bible, surf classes, games and other activities. For Ruben, who has been participating in some of our youth meetings, this was the first experience with this kind of Christian event.



From left to right: Rúben, Diniz, Eliel, Quévin, Gabriel, Rafael, Viriato

I have been moved by observing the critical situation of children. I see that every passing day children are more and more exposed to earthly things. They are completely ignorant about the Word of God and Jesus Christ. I was able to test this reality while I talked to Margarida, a 9 year-old girl. She knew nothing about Christ. When I started telling her a Bible story her eyes lit up and Margarida started seeking me more often. But how many children are stuck at home and at school, always looking at the computer or phone screen! Because of this, I am applying to teach "Religious Education" in public schools. I ask for your prayers, so that I may be recruited to one of the schools in Cartaxo.

The church in Cartaxo is slowly but surely growing. We are grateful for the baptism of José Luís, who remains committed to the church, along with his whole family. Manuela, who arrived recently, never skips a celebration on Sunday and remains faithful to her Bible study time along with her daughter Filipa. Filipa shows great interest in these studies and always asks several questions about Bible texts. May she believe Christ is her savior and join our church, along with the rest of her family.

Every Saturday I have been going to the Town Marketplace. Here there always is good opportunities to bond and talk with people. Ms. Belmira is a lady who struggles with her health and mental health issues. Every Saturday she comes to the Marketplace and comes to my stall to talk. I believe she goes to the market just for the pleasure of being able to talk to someone. I ask that you might pray for Ms. Belmira, so that she might find a friend, our best friend for life, Jesus Christ.

There are many embargos and roadblocks on the way but the Word of God tells us:

“Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent” Acts 18:9

In Christ,

Isabel Fernandes