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PORTUGAL HAS CHANGED - A new way of doing missions.

Dear brothers and friends,
I arrived in Portugal in 1989. Over these years, I have followed profound changes in Portuguese society. Families have changed, habits have changed, the composition of the population has changed, and so has the way people relate to religion.

Today, many people no longer identify with any belief and live far from the church. At the same time, evangelical churches have received many people of other nationalities. It is a blessing to see lives transformed, but I continue to carry a concern in my heart: how can we reach the Portuguese who still do not know the Gospel?

This question has led me to reflect on the way we do missions. For a long time, our effort was concentrated on inviting people to come to church. But what about those who would never walk through our doors?

"Jesus went to meet people where they were."
The message has not changed, but I believe we need to find new ways of bringing it to society. If people do not come to us, we need to find ways of going to them.
It is in this context that I have sought to take advantage of two opportunities to draw closer to the community:



- Teaching Gospel lessons in school: It allows me to connect with students, teachers, and staff, creating opportunities for relationship and dialogue.



- CrisBel (my artisanal cooking project): It takes me to markets, fairs, and city festivals, where I can meet people, build friendships, and be present in the life of the community.

My desire is that CrisBel may be like a bridge: to be where the people are and to create opportunities for more people to come to know Christ and to come to church.



- The story of our dear Manuela encourages me to continue on this path. Her approach to the church began through a relationship that developed over time at the Cartaxo Market. Today, Manuela serves God, prays, and seeks other people to follow Christ. A relationship that began in a place as ordinary as a market opened doors to something much greater.

Portugal has changed, but people continue to look for answers to life's great questions. As Pedro Abrunhosa's song so well expresses:
"Who takes away my ghosts, who shows me where the entrance is?"

The message of the Gospel remains the same and offers all the answers. It is our responsibility to share this truth.
That is why I continue to need your prayers, your encouragement, and your partnership. The new ministerial reality and a drop in my financial support have motivated me to revisit churches and seek new forms of collaboration.

Thank you for walking with me over these years and for being part of this mission in Portugal.
Portugal has changed. The message remains the same.

Come with me too to where the people are!

Isabel Martins Fernandes

BE ONE TOGETHER