

We know this newsletter may sound a bit "too practical" –for what a church planting family "should be doing." Yet, this is a season in which we know we must work hard on laying down the foundations of a life (and not just a ministry) here in Lisbon. We then rest in God, knowing and trusting that He does bring across opportunities in which we can speak life to others. We have indeed had a number of opportunities to bless people with words of knowledge and encouragement, and we look forward to see more of God's kingdom breaking through in this city as we get to engage with many locals as well as foreigners by doing life... on mission mode.

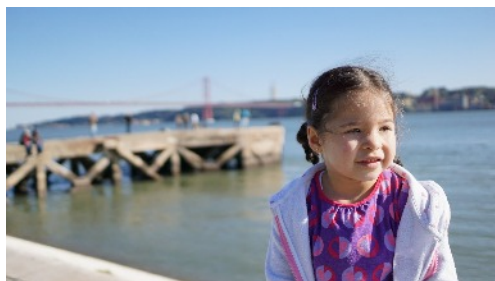
We continue serving along Serve the City every week through different activities (visiting the elderly, serving the homeless, engaging with local neighbourhoods) as well as we continue developing relationships with neighbours and new friends. By the way, our Open House for Christmas went very well, and it certainly helped to break the first barrier of skepticism, and now we've even been invited into other neighbours' houses in the building... which is faaaaar from "usual" in this culture. That's only God.

Well, we leave you here. We have suitcases to pack up and many of our NossaRua decal tiles to encase to leave ready for new orders ;)

Be hopeful, spring is coming soon... well, at least to Portugal ;)

God bless.  
Thanks for your support, your care and your genuine love.  
God is good.

Matias, Susan, Noemí y Tobías.



## Matias and Susan Valve

### It's 6 months already!

...and we're very excited for the 6 months that are laying ahead. From the last time we wrote to you, many things have moved forward and some others are still on a "stand-by" mode. Yet, we have lots to be thankful for and to praise Jesus.

So, in this newsletter you'll hear what has moved forward, what hasn't changed yet, and what we look forward to. (and in case you didn't notice it, now we managed to get a family picture!!.. yes, in Portugal you also need a warm jacket during winter.)



To start, we'd like to celebrate with you the launch of one of the businesses that we've been working on since we arrived. NossaRua (OurStreet) is our Lisbon based new brand inspired by Portugal's colourful streets and its traditional azulejo's designs.

After several weeks of design work (done entirely by Susan), followed by other so many weeks of production, we finally have in our hands this product. Last week we began the commercialisation of them, which gave us many opportunities to meet new people and engage in a deeper way with the Portuguese culture. Soon, these decal tiles will also be available in Amazon UK. They're on their way, so give them a couple of days probably. We've also re-branded the Facebook FanPage, now NossaRua Decal Tiles UK.

We're very excited about this, not only for what it means to start our own business, but for the opportunities this gives us to engage with people and to develop relationships. We've had very good feedback from the shops to which we've offered them, but we haven't received any orders yet, as it's still low-season for the shops. We know we're on a stage of casting the nets into the market, so then we need to wait and trust God for His provision. It's been a good experience so far, which in some occasions it has even felt like being on "The Apprentice," though not fighting for a 1/4 million pounds ;) We thank God for His daily encouragement and help to stay focused on His mission while we do this.



Car Registration – Thanks God, we have now received the registration plate of our car. This has been a massive breakthrough, and another milestone during this season of settling-in. It also saved us quite a lot of money actually. Portugal is well-known for its very high taxes on cars. We also want to thank some friends who helped us in this process to get some documentation we needed from the UK. You know who you are, and we are so grateful for the support of the family of God.



Residency – This one has not yet come through, but it should be a matter of time. Right now, we are waiting for some documentation from Germany to submit to the Portuguese authorities. We didn't have other option than going the long way, really. So, we simply have to exercise patience.

**Chile** - Soon after we sent our previous letter, last October, Matias' sister (Consuelo) told us she is getting married, aaaaand that she wanted Matias to officiate her wedding. Which is a great honour! Yet, believe it or not, it wasn't a straight-forward decision to go to Chile, the four of us. First, it wasn't really in our plans to make a visit during this first year here in Portugal; and second, we had not budgeted a trip like this. However, it's going to be important to be there, not only because of Consuelo's wedding, but mostly because it may be the last time (in a long time) that the entire family will be together. Matias' sister is moving –for good– to Germany in June with her husband-to-be (who is German). So Matias' family will then be spread in three different countries.



The wedding is now on 18th March. So, we're flying this coming Thursday (3rd March), as we want to make the most of such a long journey. This visit will also be an opportunity to re-connect with friends and our Chilean sending churches, but it will also be a good occasion for Matias to work on some businesses he is also doing with the Chamber of Commerce Chile-Portugal.

### Please Pray for:

- Matias' residency to be granted soon.

- Wisdom regarding whether to move Noemi and Tobias to a new school or not; and if so, the application to that new school.

- Our time now in Chile, to be a great time with family and friends and to be fruitful.

- The success of our new business and meaningful opportunities to get to engage with people (clients, contacts, etc).

- Our ongoing relationships with our neighbours in the building and other people we have met in different places.

- God's guidance, protection and provision.

- For us as a married couple and parents. More of God's wisdom, grace and love in us.

- An ongoing prayer: for a team, and the right people to join us to work together in planting this church with a common vision.

### Give Thanks for:

- The quick cultural adaptation and the good time we have had so far. We don't feel isolated or like strangers. Yes, we want to give thanks again for this.

- Our new business, NossaRua.

- The opportunity to go to Chile and be part of Matias' sister's wedding.

- God's guidance, protection and provision. Yes, we ask for and give thanks at the same time.



Our hearts have been refreshed with the visit of some family (cousins) and a dear friend (Shirley). It's great to laugh about old jokes and old stories. The power of friendship shall never be underestimated. We look forward to our next visitors.



Noemí and Tobias are doing well. Their Portuguese is way better than ours already and they enjoy their school. Having said that, we are looking at the possibility to move them to another school from September. There are some reasons behind this intention, but we need wisdom. So, pray for this as we assess this decision as well as we search and apply to potential new schools.