

Prayer Letter

April 2009

Dear friends,

I am currently in Scotland having completed seven months of language training in Lisbon and I'd like to begin by saying a big 'thank you' for your prayers and messages of support during that time. I stayed longer than had been hoped when I returned to Portugal due to more delays with the visa process, but I'm thankful for the additional time that I had there. The last three months have been really good.

Language

I managed to finish learning all of the grammar and around the end of January my level of fluency started to improve. That helped me to be more relaxed and encouraged me to talk a bit more. Now I need to keep practising and learning new vocabulary. I am thankful that I had two very good teachers who encouraged me and were happy to help me in any way that they could. I'll miss them a lot.

Opportunities

I continued to enjoy opportunities which arose to share with the people I met in my day to day life.

Church

It was lovely to be a part of the little fellowship in Sete-Rios. I enjoyed being able to get to know the folks there and to understand more and more of the message each week. I was given the opportunity to say a bit about my work on my last Sunday there and lots of people said that they would like to keep in touch and pray for the work in Angola. Take a look at the photos from the day!



Friends

I am extremely thankful for the wide range of friends I made and was able to spend some time with during my last few months in Lisbon (from Portugal, Angola, Belgium, Norway, America and the UK).

What's next?

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that, all being well, I will be travelling out to Luanda on Friday 24 April. I will be travelling out on a visitor's visa while the work visa is being finalised. There are various options for short-term accommodation, but I would ideally like to find something more permanent close to my colleague Lynne Brown. The folks in Angola are preparing a six month orientation plan for me which will probably involve a fair bit of travel. This will allow me to get a feel for different places and see what work is already being done. We are hoping that a vehicle currently in Congo will be made available for us to use on the longer journeys up-country. I will also be spending some time in the IEBA office in Luanda.

I think that's about all the news for now!

Please join me in giving thanks for:

- ◆ Good language instruction
- ◆ Friends
- ◆ The church in Sete-Rios
- ◆ Progress with the visa

And in praying for:

- ◆ Timely completion of the visa process
- ◆ Travel to Angola (that all will go well and my luggage will arrive intact)
- ◆ Accommodation and transport
- ◆ Adaptation (to my new surroundings, new relationships and the new culture)
- ◆ Safe travel within Angola and good health
- ◆ Family and friends left behind
- ◆ Learning (that as I watch, listen and absorb all that is new, that I will be sensitive to God's leading and guidance in all that I do)

Love and prayers

Fiona

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