## THE LOOP FAMILY MISSIONARIES TO PORTUGAL

January-February 2020

Dear praying friends,

In November of last year we began holding an English service once a month to minister more effectively to those who are not fluent in the Portuguese language. During the other weeks, they regularly attend the Portuguese services and hear the message translated by someone. For the English service in December, Anuraag preached the sermon. Although he was nervous, he presented a clear message entitled "The Greatest Gift Of All Time."

Our Christmas service was well attended. People needed to stand in the hallway due to lack of space in the auditorium. The theme of the play and choir songs was "Go and Tell" which emphasized that we as believers should share the same message proclaimed by the shepherds. The message of Jesus as Savior is an endless message that needs to be shared on a continual basis.

On December 31st, we had our New Year's Eve service. The night began with a preaching service during which we sang favorite songs chosen by the people. The service was followed by a meal, games and then testimonies before we entered the new year on our knees praying. It was a great time of fellowship and a good way to promote unity in the church.

David continues to disciple two ladies as they prepare for baptism. He will soon begin the discipleship course with a young teen who also is interested in getting baptized.

We continue to receive visitors during our services. In the last two years, there has been a massive immigration of Brazilians to Portugal. Brazilians now represent over 20% of the total immigrant population living in Portugal. According to a recent census, over 81,000 Brazilians live in Portugal making them the largest foreign community residing in Portugal. With the massive immigration of Brazilians we have had several of them visit our church. Some have decided to stay and have a desire to serve. In recent months, one Brazilian man has started to lead the music and will be teaching Sunday school once a month. Other new members are teaching the children, helping in the nursery and running the sound system. We are encouraged to see people get involved in the work.

Please continue to pray that God would send a man to pastor the church here in Esgueira. David was speaking to another missionary friend in southern Portugal who has a cousin who may be interested. We are planning to meet with him in the near future. Please pray that God would give clear direction and peace. We want His perfect will to be accomplished.

Julie and I want to thank you for the Christmas cards, love gifts and the birthday cards sent to Julie. We appreciate every one of you.

Your missionaries to Portugal, David and Julie Loop

November \_\_\_\_\_ December \_\_\_\_\_

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