



Providing leadership to ECM Portugal and encouraging growth in a new Church fellowship in Park of the Nations Lisbon

**THIS PRESENT DARKNESS**

A little publicity flyer tucked under my car windscreen wiper offers:  
 “Professor Mamadu, specialist in all types of occult work. Results rapid and guaranteed - problems of business, marriage, depression and spiritual illness. If you want an immediate answer to these and other problems, contact ...”

The flyer not only highlights the high level of superstition and interest in the occult that exists here under a thin veneer of social respectability, but also the key areas of life in which people are crying out for help.

People are reeling under the affects of the economic crisis. Jobs are hard to find and poorly paid. The well qualified are looking elsewhere and leaving Portugal, and relationships are often put under severe strain in these conditions.

Please pray that 2012 will be a year in which we see God **turning back the darkness** and bringing people into His wonderful light.

In our family, we are encouraged with the developments that 2012 will bring for

**Sharon and Ro** - settling into life and work in Mumbai.

**Judith**, and her involvement with her church in SE London

**Colin**, graduating from Southampton Univ. in June and needing a job and clear direction in life

Thank you so much for all your prayers and gifts

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**WHAT’S AHEAD, 2012?**

1. Here in Park of the Nations

**a. Getting Alpha off the Ground**



Our first Alpha course got under way last Tuesday evening (Jan 31), and we are encouraged by the degree of interest shown. The launch attracted nine visitors, most of whom came back for the first evening of the course. Some comments really encourage us.

“At the age of 38, I feel a bit ashamed to admit that I have not yet come to a conclusion about the purpose of life.”

This particularly honest comment came from one gentleman who had previously been to our apartment on a few occasions with his family. Another friend, whom we hadn’t seen for ages, came announcing “Anna, we’re going to be neighbours!” We are looking forward to having Marta and Nuno living nearby, and that God will work in their lives also.

Another young mother, who had been part of our “Lusitos” activity, is attending the course, having come back into our lives after a gap of almost two years.

Now what we have to do is to get people from Alpha to Omega, so to speak, and this is our **real prayer challenge** - for people to stay the course for the full 10 weeks, and for meaningful conversations to develop.

In the run up to the first evening, we, on the team, all experienced severe spiritual attacks - heaviness, marital arguments, and a sudden and inexplicable violent sickness affected one person just 30 minutes before the evening session began.

As we’re moving in this area of, as Paul says, “rescuing people from the dominion of darkness to the Kingdom of God’s son” (Col 1:13), we shouldn’t be surprised by all of this but we do value your regular prayers for us

**b. Getting our Church on the Ground**

Besides the Alpha Course, the Park of the Nations Church plant is moving into the next phase of its life, as an established church ...with its own leadership structure ... and establishing formal membership. We hope to pass on some of the everyday responsibilities we have carried (How exciting, Anna says, no more washing cups and plates every Sunday evening!)”

Please pray for these developments and our role in them and a smooth transition



**WHAT’S AHEAD, 2012?**

2. Elsewhere in Portugal

The Lord continues to work through our ECM team elsewhere in Portugal. Pray for Peter in his leadership role, that he might inspire and impart vision, and that God would open up other opportunities.

We’re also praying for new workers, and are encouraged that two young families are considering joining ECM Portugal, one from Holland. The other couple, Matias and Susan, were with us last summer, and are currently now studying in Belfast Bible College

**WHAT’S AHEAD, 2012?**

3. Beyond Portugal’s borders

Peter continues his involvement in the International Leadership Team of ECM and has most recently been working on an initiative to develop a new focus on Muslim ministries within Europe. Historically in ECM there has not been a special focus in this area, but already possibilities are being pursued in Germany, Belgium and Spain.



*Peter & Anna*

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