



# The View from Lisbon

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

## View From Valencia!

Yes, not Lisbon this time!  
For one week in April we were in Gandia, near Valencia to attend ECM's Biennial Conference

It was an excellent time of reconnecting with friends from all over Europe, and being challenged by the theme of our Conference, which was "Transforming the Peoples of Europe" As Intl Director, Chris Wigram, said on the first morning

**"Our greatest challenge in transforming the peoples of Europe is to be transformed ourselves by the Spirit of God"**

### Developing our Membercare

One of the aspects of being at Conference was thinking through issues such as the pastoral care of missionaries, what we call "membercare". Anna has been asked to be part of a small team of three coordinating membercare throughout Europe

### Muslims in Europe

Also during the Biennial, there were a number of seminars, and Peter helped facilitate a series on Islam in Europe. It was good networking with others on this area of ministry. Please pray for wisdom and energy as he continues to coordinate the taskforce which is developing this new arm of ECM's ministry in Europe.



Peter & Anna Crawford,  
Passeio do Levante,  
Torre Sul 9/A  
1990-503 Lisbon,  
Portugal

[www.thecrawfordblog.blogspot.com](http://www.thecrawfordblog.blogspot.com)

## Young and the Old

**Claudio** - Imagine you have arrived in Lisbon from another country, and, at the age of 10, you are abandoned by your family, left one day at the local social security office. Then imagine, trying to make your way somehow through life on your own, getting in and out of trouble with the authorities, and then, finally, coming in contact with Christians, through "Serve the City"\*. For the first time you hear that God loves you, and you experience Christian love in action. So you embark on a journey of discovery through the Alpha course

**Dona Conceição** - Now imagine you are an older widow, bringing up your two daughters in Lisbon. Over the years, you see one of your daughters happily married, finding first love, and then faith in Jesus Christ that totally transforms her way of life. You're curious to understand how things have become so different for her, and so you start the Alpha Course.

Just two of the seven who completed the 10 week Alpha course in April. We believe God is working in their lives. Claudio is now regular at church, and Conceicao comes more often also. We're so thankful for your prayers, and would ask you to continue in prayer for our follow up of these and others who were enriched and challenged with the truth of who Jesus is.

### One unexpected blessing -

**Margarida** our neighbour for the past four years, was interested in helping though she could not attend the course. So she helped provide food for one of the evenings, and helped Peter with his Portuguese, and in so doing, got to hear a lot of the teaching herself, and has been asking questions.

\* *Serve the City* - a Christian social outreach programme in Lisbon

## The Team in Portugal

One of the things we love about our involvement with ECM Portugal is being with other younger co-workers, building into their lives, directing, advising and encouraging where we can. It may be talking through future strategy for Coimbra, or conversing about developing new ministry in the Algarve, or, as it is just now, having stimulating conversations with three young families who are keen on joining ECM and working in Portugal. Please pray for Matias and Susan, Wouter and Maaïke, and John and Laura



## And How are we Doing?

It's been a tiring few months for us. We feel quite drained of energy, so hope to take a few days away somewhere quiet, in order to recover our energy and refocus our vision. While we praise God for all He has done, we need to depend on him daily for strength and vigour.

In regard to our apartment, we are staying on where we are for the time being, and thanking God for his provision and a good relationship with the house owner, as we feel it's important for us to be around during this period of transition in the church plant

....and, by the way, Anna did manage to offload some of her dishwashing duties, but Peter reckons we will still be rolling up our sleeves on Sunday evenings for some time to come!

Thank you so much for all your prayers and gifts

*Peter & Anna*

**S.O.S.  
COLIN NEEDS  
A JOB!  
PLEASE PRAY!**



Sharing Christ's love  
in Europe  
.ECM Ireland

Ballymacoss Ave  
Lisburn BT28 2GX  
Tel : 00 44 28 92666044