

Vanders' Ventures

 PIONEERS

JUNE 2011

PRAYER POINTS:

PRAISE GOD:

- for our safe travel to Australia;
- for the chance to catch up with family and friends;
- that Kiri has had some improvement in her health;
- for the encouragement we have received as we have visited various churches and groups;
- that Mieka and Sofia's school experience in Brisbane went well;
- for His constant and faithful provision.

PLEASE PRAY:

- for Kiri's health to return to 100%;
- for the students at PBI, and especially those who will be graduating this month, that God would be preparing them for the work of His Gospel in Portugal;
- for the growth of the Portuguese church;
- that during our Home Assignment God would give us periods of rest, and also many opportunities to encourage people we meet with;
- that God would continue to challenge, change and teach us.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?:

Here we are, writing from a cold Sydney! It's great to be back in Australia with family, friends and supporters, enjoying backyards, Aussie food and Centrelink!! We left Lisbon two months ago and travelled to Australia via America to visit Kiri's sister, Emma and her family. It was a very special reunion after 6 years!!!

After our time in the US it was on to Melbourne and then Brisbane to spend time with Kiri's family, friends and our supporting churches up there. While we were in Brisbane Mieka and Sofia spent four weeks attending Wellington Point primary school, which they really enjoyed and benefitted from. For the last three weeks we have been in Sydney with Matt's family. Once again we have really enjoyed catching up with family & friends and reconnecting with our supporting churches.

Kiri's health has continued to be quite up and down over the last couple of months. Overall she is feeling better than she was when we left Portugal, but she is still by no means 100%. Please join us in asking God to help us to get to the bottom of what's going on with Kiri's health.

.... FROM THE KIDS:

MIEKA: I have loved playing with my cousins, aunts & uncles and new friends. I have also enjoyed going on all the scary rides at Dreamworld. Even though I'm loving being in Australia I miss Portugal and look forward to going back.

SOFIA: Like Mieka I have also enjoyed playing with my cousins, aunts and uncles and grandparents. I have also loved making new friends and really enjoyed my four weeks at school. I love Oma & Opa's dogs and cat.

JOSHUA: It's great being outside, especially with Mieka and Sofia. I really enjoy throwing sticks and rocks and 'playing' with Oma and Opa's dogs. Although I'm not sure the dogs like it so much.



HAVING FUN WITH KANGAROOS!!



PRAY FOR PORTUGAL:

During our time in Australia we are asking God to raise up 500 people to commit to praying for Portugal once a week. From September we will send out prayer points once a month focused on a specific issue/topic (e.g. issues facing the nation of Portugal, or the church in Portugal; or a specific aspect of our ministry, etc.) asking you to commit to praying for them once a week. This will **not** replace our prayer letter, and if you receive our newsletter we will not automatically send you these prayer points. If however, you would like to commit to praying for Portugal, please send us an email letting us know.

YOU ARE INVITED:

What: Portuguese Afternoon Tea

When: Saturday 16 July, 3.00pm

Where: Blacktown East Presbyterian Church
(cnr. Heffron Rd & Gallop Grove, Lalor Park)

Why: Come and enjoy some Portuguese food and coffee while you catch up with the Vander Heiden family.

RSVP: please RSVP by email or phone
(0412345488)

PHOTOS ETC:

Don't forget that we keep our facebook page updated with photos and videos (www.facebook.com/mkvanders). If you don't use facebook, just email us and we can send you a link so you can view them.

WHAT'S NEXT:

We have four weeks left in Sydney, during which time we will be visiting three more churches before concluding our time here with an open afternoon tea at Blacktown East Presbyterian church (see details above). A few days later we head back to Brisbane for a couple of weeks, before leaving Australia on 5 August.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.
Love,

Matt, Kiri, Mieka,
Sofia & Joshua