

AN UPDATE FROM ALEX RAPPÉ 08.28.24

Your steadfast prayers mean the world to me. Thank you for your continued support. I would like to share a brief update on our situation here in Madeira and plans for the near future, so that you may know how specifically to be praying for the Madeira Project and me personally. As always, if there are any specific needs I can be praying for you in, please let me know those as well!

It was been quite a summer! Here's, a few photos and updates about what I've been up to:



My summer started with a wonderful trip to mainland Portugal. I was fortunate to spend quality time with fellow believers, particularly at Igreja Baptista da Ramada. Although I'd stayed there before, I'd never participated in their Sunday service - it was truly encouraging.

Coincidentally, a missions team from Antioch Church in Orlando, Florida was in Lisbon. Joining them for a few days gave me valuable insights into urban outreach, even though the language barrier was significant. A highlight was sharing the gospel with children during a park outreach - a picture of that moment is included. I'm incredibly grateful for this time in Lisbon. A special thank you to Igreja Baptista da Ramada, Pastor Tiago, and my brother Mauro for their warm hospitality.

After my time in Lisbon, I returned to the United States to reconnect with my support system.



My first stop was Spokane, Washington, where my sending church is located. Spending time with the congregation that has been so instrumental in my ministry journey was a tremendous encouragement. It was a privilege to serve them by the preaching of God's Word during a Sunday worship service.

From there, I traveled to Auburn, California to visit my family. It was wonderful to see them again. I was also honored to have the opportunity to preach at the church my parents attend, Foothil Christian Fellowship. This is a wonderful church and I've always been blessed by my time with them.

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My next stop was Rugby, England, home to Grace Bible Church Rugby, the church which is spearheading The Madeira Project. While I'd visited briefly in the past, this trip allowed me to build deeper connections with the congregation. They invited me to speak at a missions conference in June, which conveniently positioned me to be able to visit Lisbon and the United States.

Originally planning a two-week stay, my time in Rugby unexpectedly extended to nearly two months. Unfortunately, the church's occupational elder resigned during my first week. As a result, I was asked to stay on to assist with preaching, planning, and providing care to the congregation. It was a blessing to listen to the different stories of people in this church and to pray for one another. During my extended visit, I preached twice and had the opportunity to get to know many church members better.



Claudio, my ministry partner in Madeira, is one of two remaining elders at GBCR. To ensure a functional plurality of eldership, the elder team decided to have Claudio return to England temporarily to serve as the occupational elder. The church is also seeking to appoint a new occupational elder and additional non-occupational elders. Please remember Grace Bible

Church Rugby in your prayers as they navigate these leadership transitions.

Claudio's absence will undoubtedly impact my work in Madeira. With limited Portuguese, my ability to do evangelism in the Portuguese-speaking community will be greatly diminished. To overcome this challenge, I've decided to dedicate myself to intensive Portuguese language studies until the Farinha family returns.

I am now in the process of moving in to Claudio and Nikki's house to help manage their house and belongings while they're away. This will provide stability for them and allow me to be present on the island.

Please pray for the Farinha family's swift return, and pray for me while I wait. Pray that I would be able to learn the Portuguese language effectively, and even for some unexpected gospel opportunities in the meantime. Pray that I would not feel overly isolated, and for wisdom in how to use my time well.