

ALEX RAPPÉ UPDATE February 27, 2024

Thank you for your continued prayers as I have been settling in to Madeira! It is amazing that I've already been here for 2 months. It is going well so far. At this point I've pretty well settled in to my apartment, spent lots of time with the Farinha family, explored the island a bit, done street evangelism, taken care of legal requirements, and studied Portuguese



Thank you so much for praying for our evangelism! I've been splitting my time between studying Portuguese and going on the streets with Claudio to do evangelism. This has been a great way for me to practice what I'm learning by listening and speaking in the real world. Also, Claudio helped translate some of the gospel tracts that we use at my home church in Spokane, designed by my friend Greg Hahner...

this has been so helpful for me to distribute literature, and be able to speak with people about what I am giving them.

I've also had the privilege of exploring the island in my free time. Here are some pictures of this beautiful place. I took my study material there one day and sat on a rock studying Portuguese while looking over the ocean and listening to the birds. Eventually it turned into a time of prayer and singing... how could it not?!



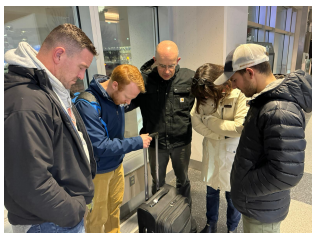
No that's not a mug shot! That's my residence card. So it is now completely official! I have 2.5 years of residency in Portugal. This gives me complete freedom to come and go as I please. If I wanted I can now get a normal job on the island, attend a college here, start a business, access national healthcare, and basically everything a citizen can do except vote. Thank the Lord! He has opened the doors every step along the way in my journey to Madeira. Thank you all also for your prayers and support which have been instrumental in the process.

As I mentioned in the headline, this is a big week! And I really wanted to update you now specifically so you can be praying for this ministry week. The three men are the team leaders from three like-minded churches in mainland Portugal. Each of these churches has shown great interest in praying for and supporting the work that the Lord is doing here in Madeira. So this week, they are each sending a team to help us with the work of evangelism.



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This is an amazing opportunity... For three days straight, we will have an extra 8 laborers who speak European Portuguese fluently helping proclaim Christ around the capital city of Funchal. They will also be distributing invitations to a gospel presentation which we will be hosting in a conference room on Sunday afternoon. We plan to give people a chance to sign up for a Fundamentals of the Faith class after this as an opportunity for follow-up.



We are so thankful for these brothers and sisters, and the time, energy, and finances that they have committed to helping us this week. Please pray that the Lord would use this team to bring many to Himself this week. Pray that our relationships with these churches and the individuals they are sending would be strengthened further, and that the Lord would give us all grace to honor Him in the process this week.

I really appreciate your continued prayers!

1. Please pray for the short-term teams that are coming to help us this week. Pray that God would use this evangelistic push to plant the seed of the gospel broadly in Funchal, and that He would cause it to take root in many hearts.
2. Please pray for my language learning. I must focus on learning Portuguese so that I can minister effectively to the people around me. This is a slow process, so pray that I would be patient with my own progress in this.
3. Please also pray for the continued ministry here. Here are a few specific people to be praying for:
 - Mario - a Roman Catholic priest, sent to Madeira on behalf of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He seems very open to hearing from God's Word.
 - Eduardo - a young man that Claudio has spoken with in Funchal several times. He is actively attending a Roman Catholic church, but has demonstrated interest in hearing about the gospel.
 - Betsy - A lady who Claudio met about a year ago. We've seen her pretty regularly, but just recently she expressed an interest in hearing more about the gospel.
 - Manuel and Arelis - A Venezuelan couple who moved to Madeira almost a year ago. Last time I was in Madeira, Claudio spoke with them, and they were very receptive, but he had not seen them for a long time. Just recently they reconnected, he went over to their house, and had a great conversation with them.
4. Pray for our health. I have been sick over the last week, and it has gone through the Farinha family as well. At this point I am pretty well recovered, but some of their kids are sick. Pray that God would give us all the health and energy that we need to serve Him... also pray for the health of the short-term team this week! It is common to experience sickness on short-term teams.
5. Pray also that I would be trusting the Lord, that I would love and worship Him more.