

Lusitânia: Land of the Citizens of Light



A Great and Glorious Past

- Explorations
 - The first to explore the world
 - Discovered over 2/3 of the world for Europe
 - Vast Empire, matched only by the British
 - That was 500 years ago, and ended about 300 years ago

The Portuguese Language



Around the World

A Problem With Identity

- Much of its identity is with the European Union (EU) and even with the United Nations (UN)
 - Portuguese/European perspective:
 - Globalization = Community = Good
 - Socialism = Humanitarianism = Good
 - Humanism = Humane = Good
 - The Portuguese are "drunk" with a cold and unimpassioned humanism... believers too.

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Statistics

- Population of Portugal = 10 million
- 96% are nominally Roman Catholic
 - Of which 14% are practicing Roman Catholic
- The remaining 4% are a mix of Atheists, Buddhists, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Animists, Hindus, etc.
- Most are in reality secular Humanists



Statistics (continued)







- Evangelicals 1%
 - Evangelical = Believing in the Evangelion (Gospel)
- Thirteen Islamic nations have more Evangelicals than Portugal
 - Two of which have similar population
- Cuba (Pop. 11.2m) has 8.8% Evangelical
- Many counties and parishes (townships) in Portugal do <u>not</u> have an Evangelical presence

Assemblies

- Previously largest Evangelical group
 - Now among the smallest (e.g., Oeste)
- No difference with other groups
- Shame of being "Brethren"
- No activity in assemblies
 - No Bible Studies
 - No Evangelism
 - No Sunday School
 - No Youth Group



Assemblies (continued)

- Lacking in real leadership
 - Not well trained
 - Sometimes just reliable to open church door
 - Not always the most godly
 - Some issues that are prevalent:
 - Pride, inferiority complex, territorial, indifference
 - Brethren popes....
- Many believers are apathetic, but some are hungry for the Word

Western Europe

- Europeans are big on Unity, humanism
- Issues include coldness, apathy, arrogance, fear of passion
- They are growing more anti-American, even in the Church
- Church follows world's cues (e.g., UN's Year of tolerance)

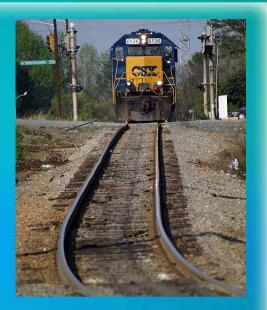
- European perspective:
 - Different = Weird = Bad = Wrong

Immigrants

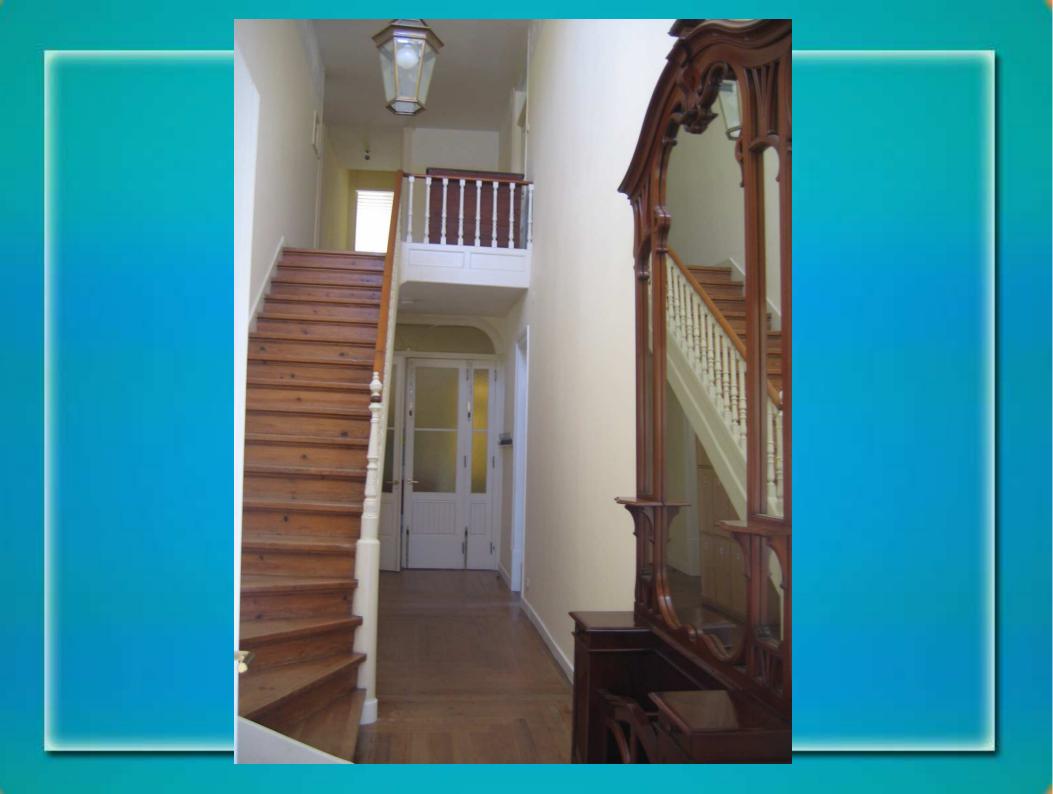
- Seen by Europeans as:
 - Different, inferior, nuisance
- Known by God as:
 - Bottomed out, knowing Satan's work firsthand, know they need help, respect "religious" people, want to improve, want passion, want freedom

Sintra Line

- Dire situation
- Why Christian Education
 - Indoctrination of the world
 - Children are targeted by Satan
 - Firm foundation for believing children
 - Clean and clear Gospel for non-believing children
 - School affects the entire family
 - Room for new assembly?
- Issues in the classroom
- Very little support from local assemblies
- We need staff... servants who are passionate about God and His Kingdom



















Other ministry opportunities

- Teaching in assemblies
- Praying about ECS
- Writing





Please keep Portugal in your prayers.

Pray for more laborers.

Consider yourself in those prayers!