

CRC –Lisbon September 2007

What shall I pack? Walking boots – possibly, sun tan cream definitely, swimsuit, flight tickets – destination a four star hotel in Lisbon. Could this be a CRC holiday? Well yes it certainly was and excellently organised and thought out by Anita and her brother Chris.

Eleven of us were met at Lisbon airport by Chris who arranged taxis to take us to our hotel where Anita was already there to greet us. After unpacking and settling in, we gathered by the pool to hear and receive information about the plans for the week ahead.

We were joined for the evening meal by the Rev Rubinho Pirola the Director of Trans World Radio in Portugal based in Lisbon, who we were to see more of during the week.

On Sunday morning Rubinho had arranged to take us by minibus and his car to the 'Reviver' church, where we had a warm welcome and could have a first attempt at Portuguese by joining in the singing with the words on the screen. Rubinho preached and his words were ably translated by a member of the congregation. After chatting to members of the church, we were given a lift into the centre of Lisbon and after finding a café for lunch we started to get to know the city.

We explored older parts of the city, gradually making our way to the central area with shops and along the river front where, on a Sunday afternoon, games of draughts and pelota type games are played and on to the Castle with its panoramic views of the city. We were all given directions to the Hard Rock Café which had been booked for dinner – spare ribs being recommended but other dishes also thoroughly enjoyed!



The week ahead offered lots to see and do, a variety of sightseeing, walking and cycling and became familiar with the metro and train system (challenging at times!). We had a good coastal walk which included sighting of dinosaur footprints on the rock face. Our travels took us to Setubal, where the cycling was more of a challenge for some but everyone survived with honours (and some tender places!).



We visited Estoril and Cascais and also Sintra which had so many places of interest, including the Walt Disneyesque Pena Palace, which a number returned on Friday whilst others combined the attractions of café culture with another visit into the centre of Lisbon.



Thursday evening included a visit to the TWR office and studio, a meal in a restaurant specially opened for us and where there was a presentation TWR's work in Portugal. Although TWR's work in Portugal only started in 2003, and there is only a small team of 3, they have seen many answers to prayer. Using 7 regional radio stations for broadcasting, because of the restrictions imposed on Christian radio, they are reaching people in their homes. They have also been able to plant churches and their commitment and enthusiasm for the work is clearly evident.

We enjoyed fine sunny days all week and rain only came on Saturday as we were due to return. So, not a typical CRC holiday but with the same characteristics of Christian fellowship and fun. Many thanks, to Anita and Chris for all the planning and thought that went into such a good week. Pat Fennell



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