

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

February 21, 2018



In the USA, Mardi Gras is a regional event at which Christians shake their heads and try to ignore. In Brazil, Carnival is a five-day national holiday that you cannot ignore. Cities compete to see who can host the largest and best party, and people come by the millions to participate. In our area of the country, which has much Spiritism and demon-worship, this is also the time of the year that the Day of Yemanja is celebrated.

Yemanja is an African water goddess that Spiritist religions worship. At the start of the year, Spiritists begin calling for spirits to come and inhabit them and the area to prepare them for this day. Unfortunately, the Catholics have synchronized this wicked practice by celebrating Our Lady of Navigators on the same day in order to put a Christian face on this pagan holiday. While the media portrays the events surrounding Carnival as wonderful, it is a time of extreme spiritual darkness in Brazil, especially in the northeast. But the work of God continues! It is the middle of summer in the southern hemisphere, and here in Salvador, we definitely feel the heat. Temperatures regularly rise above 80 degrees before 8:00 a.m. and stay above 90 until late in the day. The humidity generally stays between 75% and 85%. I know that may sound attractive to you who are sitting in cold and snow, but homes here do not have central air conditioning to escape the heat and humidity!

The highlight of the past few weeks was when we were able to have about 15 singles over to our home. We had a great time fellowshiping, and I was able to challenge them from the Word of God to take a stand for God. We also were able to introduce them to the game Pictionary, which they then wanted to play over and over again. Young people here are not much different from young people in the United States. They deal with all of the same pressures and struggle to keep their focus on Christ. Pray that God will call these young people into ministry.

The next few weeks in the ministry will be extremely busy, and we need your prayers. I will be traveling to help another missionary for a week and will be preaching for him. Please pray that souls will be saved through the efforts there. The following week, our family will be traveling to a missionary field conference that is designed to help recharge our batteries spiritually. The following Monday, I will begin teaching a two-week seminary module on the poetical books. This task of teaching for two weeks seems like a mountain in the path, but we know that God can move mountains. As if all of that was not enough, I have also been asked to preach a three-day mission's conference at a church here. The mission's conference will start the day after I finish teaching in the seminary! Apparently, you have all been taking our prayer requests to improve our Portuguese seriously... Maybe you can start praying for that every other day from now on! Thank you all for your prayers, support, and communication.

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