



NORTHEASTERN
Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

March 29, 2022
Medical Furlough Update

Recently, God has moved several missionaries who went to the field around the same time as we did back to the US. That prompted some people to wonder about our status and if we were going to announce that we would not be returning to Brazil.

I mentioned in our last update that Lincoln and I were headed back to Brazil for about 10 days. When we arrived at our home in Brazil, I video-called Naomi from the house and, with tears in her eyes, she expressed how much she wanted to be there with us and how she couldn't wait till she got better. Lincoln was able to go out several times with the teen guys from the church, and all the girls told me how much they wished that Lauren had come back with me instead of Lincoln! Both Sundays that I preached we had people raise their hands for salvation. Even though I was back to try to encourage our church members, many of them (most of whom have only been saved a short time), pulled me aside with tears in their eyes, trying to encourage me and let me know that God is going to get us through this time. A pastor friend recently invited me to preach as one of the key speakers at a conference in June; I declined and explained to him that we don't have any intention of still being in the US in June. We love what God has called us to do and we gently correct the dozens of people who give us "that look" and say, "aside from the circumstances, it must be good to be home." Let me reaffirm, we have no intention of coming off the field.

The process with Johns Hopkins has proved to be more of a frustration than a blessing. They continue to refuse to give us an ETA for when they will decide on whether or not to take her case. After much prayer, we decided to stop waiting on them and see if God would open a door with one of the other four hospitals that have specialists who deal with Naomi's condition (Minnesota, California, Texas, Florida). After making phone calls, the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville gave us the same response that Johns Hopkins did, send your information and we will review it and let you know if we will take your case. Unlike Johns Hopkins, we were able to send the information by email, not by fax. Even more unlike Johns Hopkins, within three days they had reviewed the information and accepted her case! We will be heading down to Jacksonville for our first meeting with them on April 4th! Hallelujah!

Trying to sit up on a plane for several hours will be too much for Naomi right now, so pray that God will give travelling mercies as we drive. Please keep praying that God will give the doctors wisdom in these appointments! We will update soon!

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