

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

*missionaries to* **Brazil**



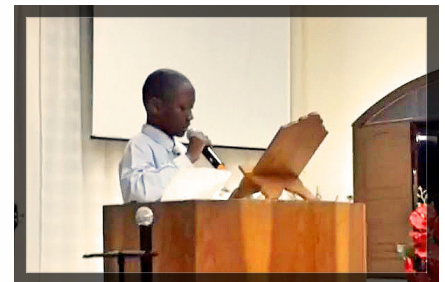
November 20, 2017

Arriving on the field was a transition in many ways. After pastoring for years and then having a very active deputation, you get to the field ready to take on the world. Then you sit for months, not able to do anything more than hand out a gospel tract. You also read wonderful prayer letters from other missionaries who left after you did and are in English-speaking countries, and you think, "Lord, did I hear you right?" But now, it is great to be able to start seeing some light at the end of the tunnel.

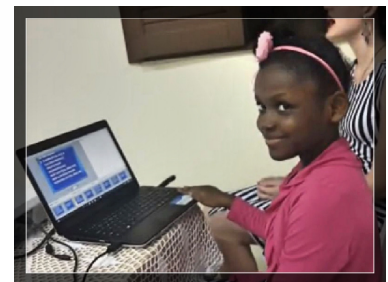
The last letter talked about the opportunities to preach, and the number continues to grow. The first offer to preach is not the most special because they have no clue what they are in for! But, being asked to come back is a special blessing. The funny thing is that the more times you preach to the same group, the more of your vocabulary is on display, and there are so many more opportunities for misfires! You just have to check your pride at the door.

Naomi has also had her chances to join in the fun. A few weeks ago, she was asked to speak to a ladies group and give her testimony. While she always does a terrific job, public speaking is not an activity that she enjoys. Yet, she did a wonderful job, and just a few weeks later, she was invited to speak to a different ladies group.

Words cannot express how proud we are of our children. Last month was "Mes de Crianças" (Children's Month), and the church asked the kids to get involved in the services. We both sat wide-eyed as we were told that Lincoln volunteered to preach in one of the services. I had to ask him just to be sure: "You know you have to preach in Portuguese, right?" He worked so hard over the past few weeks, choosing a passage, writing out his thoughts, translating, and practicing over and over. While he had some help, it was important that this was not "dad's message" that he was preaching, it was his own. He did an awesome job and now has his first Portuguese message (and first message ever) under his belt. Pray that God will use this opportunity to work in his heart.



Lauren, while lamenting that there were not more opportunities for the girls to get involved, was also able to do the hymn projector for two services during the month. We were very happy about her desire to get involved, and we were able to talk about how there are no small parts in serving the Lord. The best part was that everyone walked away from the month talking about all the things that we would like to do when we are able to get our work started.



Keep us in your prayers because the end of the year is very busy for us. We are traveling to spend Thanksgiving with some friends here in Brazil, and then we have a very busy ministry schedule for the end of the year. Please enjoy a white Christmas for us—we have been told that Christmas can be the hottest day of the year here, and we are looking forward to 90+ degrees! Have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! God bless you all.

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