

West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



December 15, 2023

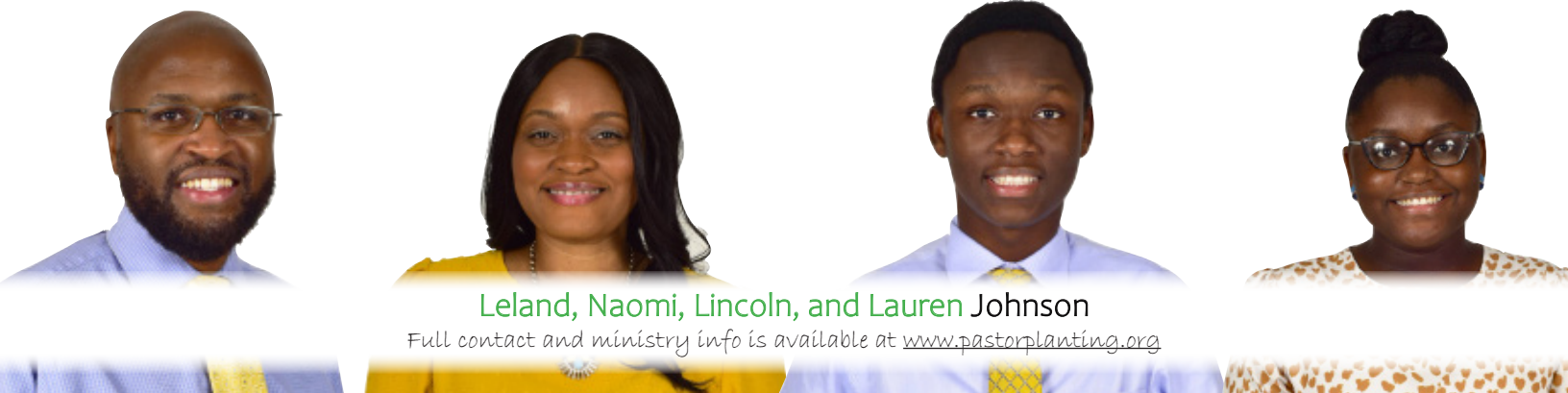
We cannot believe that 2024 is almost here. The last several weeks have been tremendously busy for us, and there is much we could report. However, we wanted to use this final letter to give you an idea of the work that we will be striving to accomplish in 2024.

As the Deputation Director for Macedonia, one of my main roles is working with our twelve missionaries currently on deputation. Macedonia has not had a Deputation Director in over ten years, and because of that, our General Director, Dr. Caudill, has asked me to prioritize updating our training process. Deputation is one of the most difficult and stressful times in a missionary's life. Statistics tell us that almost 40% of missionaries who start deputation never finish it. Stop and consider that for a moment. For most missionaries, deputation is a task they tackle alone or with very little assistance. I am currently working on a process that will help our missionaries, their pastors, and Macedonia work better together. The goal is to shorten the time it takes to get to the field (generally over three years) and thereby lower the cost of sending missionaries to the field (over \$150,000). Would you please pray for two things? Pray that God would give wisdom in setting up the process. Also, pray that the process would be a smooth transition and not a burden for our missionaries.

As the Field Director for the West Indies, our main need is for more churches to be planted. I have spoken to several pastors who have surpluses in their missions' budgets because missionaries are retiring or leaving missions faster than they can be replaced. We do not need just one or two people called; we need to see people surrendering by the dozens. When we think of missionaries, we generally think of college-age kids, but in the Bible, missionaries like Paul, Silas, Barnabas, and even Jonah, were adults. The incredible benefit for our area is that most of the 30+ countries and territories in the West Indies speak either English or Spanish, the two main languages spoken in the USA. Pray that God would call adults, maybe even retiring pastors and evangelists, to help plant churches in the islands.

Also, fundamental Christianity is still new in most minority communities in the USA. Which is why less than 3% of missionaries are from minority communities. Yet, they could have a tremendous impact in reaching the world. Would you pray that God would also call people from minority communities to surrender to the call of missions?

These are just two of our major goals for 2024. You can expect to see much work and many more prayer requests as we jump into the new year. We hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

Full contact and ministry info is available at www.pastorplanting.org