



# NORTHEASTERN Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

July 5, 2020

Things have been moving so fast that I have not even had time to send an update. Even here I am going to have to cram things together to get everything in, so hold on to your hats!

If my wife never does another thing, she has still fulfilled her role as a “help-meet” for the rest of time. Our flights on June 5 were canceled again. We prayerfully made the decision for me to return to Brazil on my own to see what things look like here, look for a house, and arrange things for our return, which we rescheduled for the first week of July. I had to fly through six different cities to get here, but after about 36 hours of travel, I arrived. Even though a lot of places are closed here, there are no food shortages, which was the main concern (especially for Lincoln!). The process of finding a house was quite frustrating and took longer than we thought, but praise God, we were able to find somewhere to live.

One day, Naomi called me and said that she had just happened to open the kids’ passports and noticed that they would expire in nine days! To be honest, I had known that the kids’ passports would expire at the end of June, but we were supposed to be back in Brazil in April, so I had forgotten all about it. We called the US passport office and were told that it may be as long as five months to get their passports renewed. The insanity that ensued is where my wife earned a gold star.

We had to book tickets for six days later to get them into Brazil before the kids’ passports expired. Naomi and my father had to pack 15 crates of things that we were taking back to Brazil, both personal belongings and things for the church plant. A friend had to drive his cargo van from North Carolina to Fort Lauderdale to get the crates to the departing airport for us, and then Naomi and the kids had to navigate the flights to Brazil alone. And yes, if these flights had been canceled, it would have been a long wait for our family to get back to Brazil.

But the flights were not canceled! Not only that, but when they got to the airport, they ran into a missionary friend who happened to be going back to Brazil and had the same itinerary as they did. He was able to help them with their bags and get them through customs in Brazil. Passport control stamped the kids’ passports without much ado, and God once again proved that He is in control.

Even with the excitement of us all being back in Brazil, there is not space to adequately describe just how hard the devil has been fighting us every step of the way. Every day there are multiple things that should go seamlessly but instead come apart at the seams (like having the rental car company try to charge \$200.00 per day for a rental that should have cost \$17.00 per day). But we never give place or space to the devil. We just view it as God toughening us up for the work of planting a brand-new work in the devil’s backyard.

Please keep us in your prayers!

**WE ARE  
BACK IN  
BRAZIL!**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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