

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

*missionaries to* **Brazil**



May 31, 2019

It seems like just yesterday that the tears were flowing when we said goodbye and left for Brazil. Now, just a few short years later, the tears are flowing again as we head in the opposite direction. Our final weeks have been difficult as we prepare to say to all of our new friends and family here in Brazil, but our busy schedule has not allowed us to spend too much time being sad.

## COLUMBIAN REFUGEES SLEEPING IN THE STREET

In April, I was invited to travel to Boa Vista, a city near the Brazil-Columbia border, to preach. It was heartbreaking to see the number of Columbian refugees fleeing into Brazil. Refugees were sleeping on the streets, in abandoned houses, and anywhere else they could find, but it presented great opportunities to share the Gospel. Along with the Portuguese-speaking Brazilians and the Spanish-speaking Columbians, there are many English-speaking people from Guyana in the city. In an effort to accommodate each language present at church, on Sunday morning, I preached in Portuguese, and the pastor translated to English, and on Sunday night, I preached in English, and he translated to Spanish.

The following week was a youth retreat for several churches in Sao Paulo, over 2,000 miles to the south, and there were over 100 teens present. I was invited to be the main speaker and preached two messages on the topic of "A Virtual Life or a Victorious Life." During the invitation of the second message, the altar was full of young people wanting to commit their virtual lives (online activities) to the Lord, as well as their physical lives! God also saved one young man and is working on a young woman that raised her hand for salvation.

The month of May started off with another financial seminar with people from three different churches coming to learn about how the Word of God applies to their finances. A few weeks later, one of the pastors who attended with some people from his church said that the principles taught have not only changed his life but the way he handles the churches finances as well!

The financial seminar was followed by a last-minute request to preach at a two-day anniversary conference. God blessed the anniversary services with six first-time visitors, three of whom raised their hands expressing their need for Jesus but were just not willing to make a commitment at that time.

All of this has been happening while the kids have been finishing up final exams for school, and we are packing the house in preparation to come back on furlough. If the saying, "home is where the heart is" is true, then we are a family with divided hearts and two homes as we prepare to leave. God has genuinely given us a love for the people here in Brazil and has given them a love for us. We are excited to be coming back to the USA but cannot wait to get back to what God has waiting for us here! Our next update will be from the USA.

**WE ARE STILL  
SETTING  
FURLOUGH  
MEETINGS  
FOR JULY  
2019  
THROUGH  
MARCH 2020**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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