

West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



November 6, 2023

I received a call from one of our church members at the church in Brazil asking us if we would participate by video in a special service that they were having in their home last week, and we graciously accepted the invitation.

See, Arsenio and Cristiane are a Brazilian couple we met shortly before returning to the US. They are photographers and took the family photos you see on our letterhead and materials. After taking the photos, we began discussing God and church with them. They had a Christian background, but having become completely disillusioned by the prosperity Gospel that dominates Brazil, they had given up on God and the church.

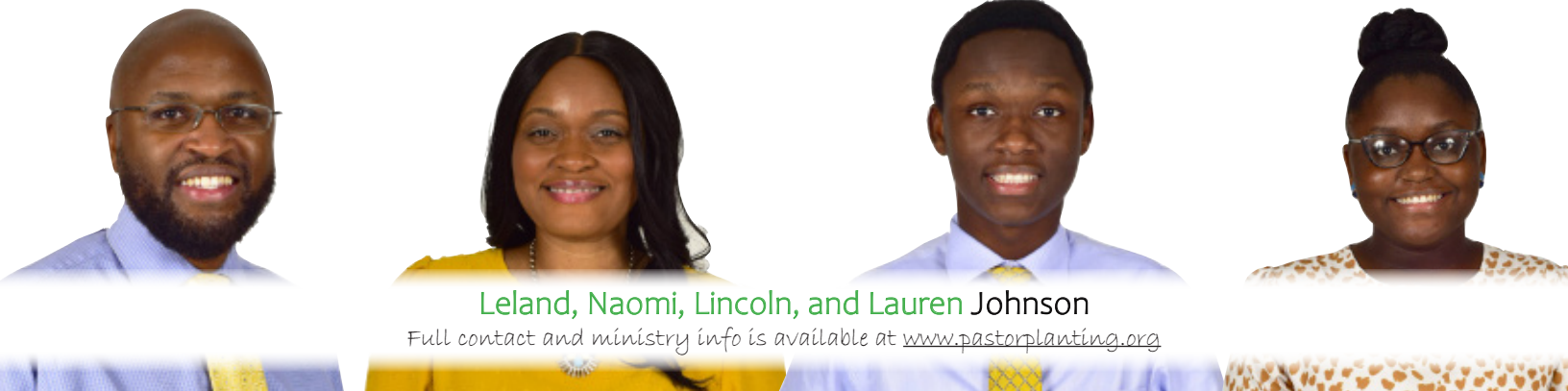
We talked with them about what God was doing in our church and how God had designed the church to be. They were skeptical but said they would come to visit sometime. Surprisingly, they attended the next service, and God immediately began to work in their lives. A few weeks later, they brought their daughter, who had also walked away from God, and He did a work in her heart. The entire family enrolled in our discipleship classes and soaked up everything they could. Over and over, they expressed to me their astonishment at how much they were growing through the preaching and teaching in just a short time.

When we announced that we were having to leave the field, the entire family broke down crying. With tears, they told us that God used us to rescue them and that they would forever be indebted to our family. We reminded them that it is the Son of Man who seeks and saves that which was lost. We shared many tears between that day and the day that it came time for us to leave.

Since leaving, their daughter Natasha has begun to play the guitar during services to accompany the music. Arsenio opens the service with a prayer and occasionally makes announcements. Cristiane has started working with the children's ministry, and they attend every service faithfully. They sent a request to participate in a special service at their home to commemorate the one-year anniversary of God transforming their home through the Igreja Batista Nordeste. People like Arsenio, Cristiane, and Natasha are the reason we should always follow God wherever He leads.

Naomi met with her cardiologist, and he was very happy with the progress in lowering her heart rate. Her blood pressure has been progressively higher, so he switched her to a new medication to try to do a better job with her blood pressure. Thank God for the small victories!

We are looking forward to our next letter in a few weeks to finish the year and look forward to what God has in store for 2024. Thank you for praying!



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

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