

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

November 8, 2018



Thirteen years ago, the church that we are working in sent a Brazilian man out to start a church in a nearby town. Unfortunately, over the years, the church has struggled to grow. God put it on our hearts after we arrived here last year to help and encourage that pastor, but since taking over the church here earlier this year, we have not had the time to do much with him. I asked a missionary friend of ours if he would help me to do an evangelistic conference for the church to help the pastor refocus his vision, and he agreed to help. We decided on two nights because we still had all of our responsibilities at our church on Sunday.

**...HE
ADMITTED
HE DIDN'T
WORK VERY
HARD...**

About a month before the conference, I gave the pastor some tasks to get his group ready for the conference, but he admitted to me later that he didn't work very hard to get ready because he didn't think that anyone would come. About two weeks before the conference, none of the preparations were done, and he had me frustrated and a little discouraged. He had even scheduled another church project on the Saturday morning that the church was to go out inviting people to the conference. He repeatedly explained how the people in his area would not come to this type of event. I thought about canceling the conference, but during my Bible study, God led me to the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer in 1 Samuel 14,

where God did great things even with a pretty bad plan. When I talked to the other missionary, he also believed that God was going to do something special and that we should move forward.

On Friday, the first night of the conference, I was genuinely nervous. If the turnout was poor, it would confirm to the pastor what he already believed to be true about the area (to me, it would have only confirmed that he should have worked harder to prepare). About ten minutes before the service started, the first visitors walked in the door, and I knew God was going to bless. Brazilians aren't really known for showing up on time.

That first night, 16 adults and children walked through the door for the first time, and God saved five adults and six children and had a total of 47 in attendance. The pastor's wife was in tears as she told Naomi how long it had been since they had seen someone saved in a church service. The pastor was stunned and repeatedly told us that if no one came tomorrow, God had already shown him everything he needed to see. All we told him was to wait for tomorrow—God was not through.

On Saturday night, the pastor, still not sure that the first night was not a fluke, had not rented the extra chairs as we had advised him to rent. Before the service even started, every chair that the church had was full. We ended up having to go to a nearby restaurant to borrow chairs, and we still had people standing in the back. God brought 22 more first-time visitors and saved six more adults and two more children and had a total of 81 in attendance! In total, between soul-winning and the conference, God saved 22 souls and brought 38 first-time visitors to the church! How great God is!

**GOD
SAVED 22
SOULS!!!**

Out of space again! Pray for us this month because we will do our first baby dedication in Portuguese, our first wedding in Portuguese, our first singles all-nighter, and our main churches first evangelistic conference. It will be a busy month!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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