the Johnson's missionaries to Brazil

December 4, 2015

Just a few days ago we all stopped to thank God for His great blessings to us all. Our Thanksgiving week was accented by God allowing us to reach 100% of our support. So many missionaries never reach their full support before leaving for the field, or at all, so we truly feel blessed.

Our deputation process has certainly been an exciting one. Sitting here today with only one meeting left and just under four weeks until we fly to Brazil, there is so much to reflect on and to be thankful for. In the past 15 months, we have driven over 75,000 miles, visited 113 churches and been in 38 states. In so many churches we have heard that "missionaries are our heroes." But, let me tell you who our heroes are. Our supporting churches are made up of about 17,000 people. Each one wakes up every morning to go to a job they may or may not love, to earn money to support their family, and to give to their local church. They then sacrifice a bigger home and a newer car to give to missions. Why? Because they are just as committed to the Great Commission as we are. You may believe that missionaries look like heroes, but when we look in the mirror, we see your faces.



With our meeting schedule winding down, we are so blessed to be back at Crossroads with our church family. Last Sunday was the first Sunday that we were home and not in a scheduled meeting since starting deputation. We are still working hard though, and we are currently in the process of sorting and packing. By not shipping a container we were able to save over \$7000.00, so we will be taking about 12 extra pieces of luggage on the plane at far less cost. Attempting to reduce your entire life to just a few pieces of luggage is very challenging! The rest of the things we need will be purchased in Brazil after we make living arrangements. Getting started in a new country is like turning 18 all over again. In Brazil, we have no credit history, no references, no previous addresses, all things that you need when you want to do something as simple as renting a place to live. We will have about 30 days after we arrive to get registered in the country, to find a place to live, and to get settled before language school starts. We are so thankful to have our Field Director Sean Lunday and his wife Stephanie in Sao Paulo helping us make this transition.

Please continue to pray, pray, pray for us. The next six weeks will be a time of many challenges and much growth as we transition to our new country. Pray for wisdom as we try to bring the things that we need and leave the things we do not. Pray for our families as we spend our final Christmas at home. Pray for safety as we fly to Brazil. Pray that our registration with the Federal Police in Brazil will go smoothly (this process will give us the Brazilian equivalent of a social security number). Pray that we will find a place to live quickly, and find the things that we need to set up our temporary home at a reasonable price. Pray that we will be able to find reliable transportation at a reasonable price. Lord willing, God will have answered each of these requests by our next update. Our next prayer letter will be coming to you from Brazil (Can you believe that! It's finally here!).

<u>CONTACT INFORMATION</u> Leland, Naomi, Lincoln & Lauren (704) 751-0015 Johnsons@pastorplanting.org www.pastorplanting.org SENDING CHURCH Crossroads Baptist Church 5811 Hoffmans Lane Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041 Dr. Kenny Baldwin, Pastor MISSIONS AGENCY Baptist International Missions, Inc. #1528 P.O. Box 9215 Chattanooga, TN 37412