

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**



September 10, 2019

We have arrived back to the east coast! Since our last letter, we have traveled over 10,000 miles to the west coast and back and visited our churches in ten different states. It was a long trip, but we wanted to visit our western churches before the school year got going in earnest.

While visiting some of our churches in Texas, we were so excited to see our three-year-old niece for the first time. She was born while we were on the field, and it was an overwhelming joy to get to meet my sister's first child. We spent two days in between meetings enjoying our time together, but all too quickly it was time to leave.

10,000 MILES SINCE THE LAST LETTER

As we were preparing to leave, someone made the comment that my three-year-old niece, who we had only just met, would be eight years old by the next time we see her. This realization hit all of us a little harder than we expected, and when we got back in the car, tears started to flow.

Later that evening, the Lord brought Matthew 19:29 to mind, and I shared it with the family. It says, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." We were able to consider the meaning of this verse together and claim its promise as our own.

Since the day we started deputation, we have constantly talked about how Paul used a team of people to maximize his effectiveness. We knew that the plan that God has for us in seeing churches established across the northeast of Brazil was a job that was too large for just one family. We have asked God to give us people who are passionate about reaching the northeast of Brazil to work with us. God has started to answer those prayers!

Joseval and Silvia Alves are a couple we met in the ministry we oversaw during our first term. Joseval had been holding services in his home in the area where he lives, but the work had struggled. When the missionary we were filling in for returned, he decided to end that ministry. After seeking God's direction, I talked to Joseval and Silvia about their future plans. They were uncertain about what would come next and were thinking about leaving the area. We talked about what God has called us to do and asked them to pray about working with us. Joseval looked at Silvia with a smile on his face and said, "Pastor, we don't even need to pray. I mean, we will pray, but this is exactly what we were hoping you wanted to talk about! You just tell us when and where and we will be ready to move." How amazing our God is!

**GOD HAS
PROVIDED
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TO HELP
US IN THE
MINISTRY**

Joseval has only completed a few seminary classes, so we enrolled him in an online seminary to help him learn while we are on furlough. Pray that God will help him learn and prepare diligently. Keep us in your prayers, as well, as we travel.

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