

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

August 8, 2018



What does a murderer look like? Does he look any different than the man that I talked to at church a few months back? Is he more dangerous? Am I in any danger? All of these questions floated through my mind as I walked down the street towards Dona Selina's house.

If you remember from our last letter, Dona Selina's son murdered his ex-wife and her boyfriend and then was beaten almost to death by the neighbors.

As I walked up to the door, I prayed for God's help one more time and then called out to those in the house. As I approached, Dona Selina met me at the door and cried out very, very loudly, "Thank you, God, for this wonderful man of God, my pastor, who has come to share the Bible with my son!" I thought this was very odd but entered the house.

In front of me was a man missing almost all his teeth, bruised and scared, a double murderer. He began to speak but was almost impossible to understand. However, I did not get the sense that he was not broken or remorseful. Rather, he knew what he did was wrong, but he felt he had good reason to do it.

I was surprised not only by his attitude but also by the things that God was putting in my heart to say to him. "Lord, how can I say these things?" I prayed. "I do not even know that I can express them in Portuguese correctly."

When he stopped talking, I looked at him and said, "You said that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. Your soul is safe. But if you are not willing to serve him with your life, why should he keep you alive?" He looked at me surprised but said nothing. I took him to the story of Lot, and I told him that his mother was like Abraham, begging God to spare the life of Lot.

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As I talked, he began to cry. He then told me that he knows he is going to die soon. Many times in Brazil, the family of the deceased will kill the murder. He told me that during the night, he and his mother hear people listening through the doors and windows, and there are always people watching the house. (That was the reason for the way that Dona Selina greeted me at the door!) He told me that he does not want to die. I shared with him about Moses and David, who were murders who God used, and that it is not too late for God to use him, and he began to cry again. He said that he wanted to let God use him with whatever time he has left.

As I left the house, holding my Bible a little higher with the words "Holy Bible" facing outward for anyone who might be watching, I thanked God for the promised work of the Holy Spirit in Matthew 10:19, which says to "take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak."

Thank you for your continued support, which gives us opportunities like these to minister to the people here in Brazil. Pray for us, as we have a large multi-day outreach event and missions conference scheduled for this month. Pray that God will bless our efforts, give us good weather, and save souls.

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WHAT DOES A MURDERER LOOK LIKE?