

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

July 2, 2018



The past few weeks have been a blur of activity. We have been so happy to have my parents visiting us for the first time since arriving here on the field. Seeing them for the first time in two and a half years has brought the joy that only family can bring, and the suitcase full of goodies that they brought helped as well! It has been such encouragement and has helped with the pressure that we have felt since taking over the work for the missionary on furlough.

Seeing our family has been exciting, but we have had the chance to see several people added to the family of God as well! One of those people is a lady named Mercia. She visited the service for the first time, and after the service, she said that she needed to talk. I sat down with her and a deacon, who helped make sure I understood everything she said, and I listened to her questions and confusion. I was able to share the love of God with her, and she readily accepted the invitation to pray to ask God to forgive her sins. When she bowed her head to pray, I have never heard someone weep so deeply while asking God to forgive them. She wept for nearly ten minutes, and it was clear that God had spoken to her heart and convinced her of her need for a Savior. I learned that she had been involved in a lesbian relationship, and God has released her from the chains of her sin. She has been faithfully attending the service and wants to be discipled.

But, the blessings have not come without challenges. One of the faithful elderly ladies in the church has a son who had attended off and on for several years. He had made a profession of faith, but since we arrived at the church last year, has only attended two or three times. A few weeks ago, he was at church. I talked to him, but something seemed off. I told him that I wanted to get together with him one day soon. The following Sunday we were told that this man had broken into his ex-wife's home on Saturday night and had murdered her and her boyfriend. When the neighbors heard the gunshots, they came outside, caught him, and beat him almost to death. Trying to find words of comfort for his grieving children and mother would be difficult in any language. Please pray for Dona Selina and her family that God will work in a miraculous way on their behalf.

Please join with us in prayer for the many things that God is doing. One of the major projects we are currently working on is organizing the church's discipleship program. The church has done discipleship with new believers for quite some time, but as sometimes happens, a few people end up overloaded and doing all of the discipleship. Please pray as we set up a new system to organize and train new "disciplers" as God adds new "disciples." Also, be in prayer for the church's missions conference scheduled for August 1. Pray that God will challenge the people in the church to not only give but also answer the call and go as missionaries to reach people in the same way they have been reached, with the Gospel. Thank you all for your faithful support and prayers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln & Lauren
(704) 751-0015
Johnsons@pastorplanting.org
www.pastorplanting.org

SENDING CHURCH

Crossroads Baptist Church
5811 Hoffmans Lane
Bailey's Crossroads, VA 22041
Dr. Kenny Baldwin, Pastor

MISSIONS AGENCY

Baptist International
Missions, Inc. #1528
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341