



NORTHEASTERN Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

February 17, 2020

Well, 2020 has not only arrived but has brought so many exciting things that there is not enough space for them all. For us, the most exciting news of the new year is that we have purchased our return tickets to Brazil! We had originally planned a ten-month furlough ending in April, but the date has been moved to May 13—but that date change requires an explanation of its own.

Several years ago, I had started studying for my doctorate. I thought that after having pastored, deputation would provide some downtime during which I could continue my studies. However, God blessed in such a tremendous way on deputation that there was no time to work on classes. When we arrived on the field, we started language school and there was no time for anything other than learning Portuguese and learning how to live in a new country. After our first year in Brazil, things did slow down a little and I was able to resume studying. But then God led us to take the church for the missionary that went on furlough and I found myself in the same position that I had been in while in the States: Pastoring and trying to make time to study.

When we came back on furlough, the school contacted me with some surprising news. Since the day that I had started working on the degree, I had been paying the tuition in small monthly payments. They informed me that I had been paying so long that the degree would be completely paid for in two more payments. They “suggested” that I should probably work to get my classes finished. I had always assumed that I would finish in Brazil and have the degree sent to me, but after talking to my pastor he agreed that since we are back in the USA, we should stay the extra few weeks and go to graduation. Lord willing, I will be graduating with a doctoral degree in Religious Education on May 8, 2020. I believe that this degree will be well used in the plan to establish a Bible college that will train men to plant churches all over the northeast of Brazil. Five days after graduation, we will be returning to Brazil.

PRAY FOR NAOMI'S RECOVERY FROM ORAL SURGERY!

Please continue to pray for us. Naomi will be having oral surgery in a few days to correct an issue that we had been told by a dentist in Brazil was “not a big deal.” It has ended up being a significant issue, including an infection, and the surgery will have her down for a little bit. This comes right as our busiest stretch of meetings between now and returning to Brazil begins. Please pray that she will recover quickly. Thank you for your prayers, more exciting news in a few weeks!

**TICKETS
PURCHASED!
WE RETURN
TO BRAZIL
MAY 13, 2020**

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