



NORTHEASTERN
Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

February 2, 2022
Medical Furlough Update

Let me start by thanking you for your fervent prayers on our behalf. We have received so many emails and notes and we know that this represents only a fraction of the people who are regularly praying for us.

In our last update, I mentioned that we had important tests scheduled for January 3. Well, if you were watching the news on January 3, you would know that the Washington DC area was hit by a snowstorm that shut down I-95 for over 24 hours. The earliest they could reschedule was January 10th. That test was completed, and we were told that it would be two weeks for the result. About ten days later, we received the call that the doctor wanted some more tests done before he met with us, and they could not be scheduled until the 31st, then the doctor would meet with us on February 1st. That appointment happened yesterday.

Due to abnormalities in Naomi's test results from Brazil, the doctors had suspected that Naomi had a somewhat uncommon type of blood cancer called multiple myeloma. The testing has given clarity to those suspicions. Yesterday, the doctor told us that, while Naomi does not have multiple myeloma, she does have a condition that, while it is not yet myeloma, could develop into that disease. It is likely that the symptoms that she has been experiencing are related to that condition, but we would need a different type of specialist in order to clarify that point. Unfortunately, because we are dealing with a somewhat rare condition, there are few specialists. Fortunately, one of them is at Johns Hopkins, just an hour or so from where we are. Unfortunately, the earliest we can get an appointment with Johns Hopkins is February 25, and that appointment will only result in getting a referral to see the specialist.

With the negative myeloma diagnosis, it clears the way for Naomi to have a non-cancerous fibroid tumor removed that was found a few months back. That surgery is scheduled for February 11. Please pray that the surgery is successful—and please continue to pray, as Naomi is still in a lot of pain. Her blood pressure remains abnormally high even though the doctors have been working to try to control it. Please pray that God will continue to give the doctors wisdom, and that He will heal Naomi's body in His time.

We love and appreciate you all. Thank you for your prayers and patience as we work to navigate this difficult time.

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