

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

*missionaries to* **Brazil**

December 21, 2018



The last several weeks have been an avalanche of activity! In our last letter, we were just finishing up with an evangelistic conference in which God did great things, and we were looking forward to an incredibly busy month. The month certainly did not disappoint.

Before coming to the field, we were blessed to dedicate many babies and do weddings in our church, but there is just something special about getting to do it for the first time in another language. Honestly, both requests came as quite a surprise. The initial reaction was to suggest that the couples wait one more month until the other missionary came back (as to not turn their special days into a Portuguese practice session!) What a humbling experience it was to be told by both couples that they were the ones who would be honored for us to do these things and not the other way around.

The baby dedication and the wedding both went very well. But what a surprise it was to learn the day before the wedding that the custom here in Brazil is that the bride always arrives a minimum of an hour and sometimes up to six hours late for the wedding! They say that it teaches the groom that the bride is worth the wait. Thankfully, the bride only arrived an hour and ten minutes late in our case!

We ended the month with another evangelistic conference, but at the main church this time. This was the church's first evangelistic conference, and we were praying for God to do something special in this church as well. The people really got involved in the preparation, going out several Saturdays to pass out flyers and inviting friends and neighbors. The highlight of the preparation was that the church was able to complete its first 24-hour fast the day before the conference! I taught several lessons on fasting and prayer, and the church congregation was very nervous and asked many questions. We encouraged them to do the best they could and, in any case, spend the day in prayer. We were so excited that many of the people were able to complete the fast but more excited about God's response to the prayers and work of his people.

## ...91 VISITORS DURING THE CONFERENCE

The main service normally has between 100 and 120 in attendance. We split the kids off to their own area because we were expecting God to fill the main service with adults. After the first night, we rented an additional 75 chairs and used them all on the second and third nights. The nursery and children's services were jam-packed, just like the main service. In total, we averaged 236 people per night during the conference with a high service of 251! We had 91 visitors during the conference, saw over 35 adults raise their hands expressing their need for salvation, and had 11 walk the aisles, as well as many children in the children's service. God just continues to prove that He will save souls if His people work to get people in His house!

If you take all that and then throw in a singles all-nighter activity at our house somewhere in there, then you have a good idea of what our past few weeks have looked like. It was a lot, but what a way to end the year! We cannot wait to see what God is going to do next year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

### 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