

Naomi Johnson's Testimony

I am thankful that I grew up in a Christian home with parents that love God and wanted to serve the Lord. Both of my parent worked in the U.S. Navy, accepted Christ later in their lives, met, and were married. At the age of five I was attending my Awana's class on a Wednesday night and the teacher was talking about death and the need for salvation. I knew that if I were to die right then I would go to hell and that evening I went forward to accept Christ as my Lord and Savior. Even though I could remember the time I accepted Christ I still had some doubts until the age of 10 when I went forward during the invitation and talked with my pastor, received assurance of my salvation and was baptized.

As a young person I was heavily involved in every aspect that I could in the local church from visitation to camp counseling. When I was 16 years old my parents relocated to the Washington DC area and we started to attend the Crossroads Baptist Church. It was there that I began to assist in teaching Sunday School, joined the choir, and was actively involved in my youth group. The Lord was molding me into the person I needed to be and through the preaching of my youth pastor, pastor Kenny Baldwin, and Dr. Lou Baldwin I was convinced that my direction in life was of my own making and not God's path. During my senior year, I was accepted into John's Hopkins University with a full scholarship to study medicine, yet I knew that God was calling me to follow His direction and not my own. I surrendered to give God my future and instead went to Pensacola Christian College, majoring in Elementary Education.

Leland and I met before my freshmen year and continued to serve in local churches during summer breaks and more actively in our sophomore and senior years in college at Atlantic Baptist Bible College. We both served in a young church plant in Emporia, VA with their youth. Leland and I were married in 2004 and in 2006 God blessed us with two children, Lincoln and Lauren, as we continued to serve faithfully in the Virginia area. I finished my schooling at Louisiana Baptist University with a BA in Christian Elementary Education. In 2007 the Lord called our family to Shelby, NC and I was privileged to be a pastor's wife to the people of the Berean Baptist Church. I had the opportunity to work in various other ministries including ladies, nursery, visitation, and secretarial. In January of 2014, the Lord called our family to be missionaries to the people of Brazil while on a trip to visit one of our missionaries we supported at Berean.

The Lord burdened our hearts for the people there and we had the wonderful opportunity to start the Igreja Batista Nordeste in Brazil. It was an amazing experience to see so many lives saved and changed. During our time in Brazil, I learned Portuguese and had the opportunity to teach ladies' and kids' classes, disciple and counsel ladies, sing in the choir, witness, and see lives impacted and changed for the glory of God.

In December of 2020 I contracted COVID-19 and developed problems walking, as well as neurological and cardiac problems as a result, and was diagnosed with long-haul COVID. Despite many attempts by several specialists to treat it in Brazil the doctors had exhausted all available treatments. Despite our desire to stay and do what I could in the ministry, the Lord was closing that door and unexpectedly opening another one for our family. God in His divine appointment led Dr. Scott Caudill to reach out and offer us a leadership role with Macedonia World Baptist Missions if we needed to return

due to health issues. In April 2023 my husband became the West Indies and Deputation Director for Macedonia World Baptist Missions. We are excited to serve the Lord together and follow Him in this new endeavor to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread to all people and churches established in every country. God is still doing great things! Psalm 37:4-5