



NORTHEASTERN Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

January 20, 2021

Happy New Year to you all! When we last communicated, we were asking for prayer as Christmas was arriving and the number of chairs available was diminishing. Well, Christmas did not disappoint! We planned a living nativity, which was the first time anything like that had been done in this area, rented several tents, as our inside space only holds about 35 socially distanced people, and we started inviting the community, most of which involved explaining what a living nativity is! At our Christmas service we had 72 people in attendance and four saved!



And then Christmas morning... Naomi woke up not feeling well. She tried to make Christmas dinner but only made it halfway through before having to go and lie down. By the next morning she was running a very high fever and we went to the hospital. After having several tests come back negative, they prescribed her medication for the fever and the pain, told her that the COVID test results would be back in two days, and sent her home. Two days later the test came back positive. Humanly speaking, it could not have happened at a worse time. But thank God for those he has given us to work with us. We were able to quarantine the required amount of time while still seeing things move forward. Naomi never developed any breathing issues and no one else in the family developed any symptoms.

As for the construction on our sanctuary, we were finally able to chase down (literally) our contractor and the project has started moving forward once again. The only problem now is that our new space will hold about 65 people with the minimum amount of social distancing we can get away with. The reason that it is a problem is that last Sunday we had 62 people in our main service! It is our highest "non-event" attendance to date. We actually had to have people sit outside and listen through a speaker because we did not have space for everyone inside. As we know, this is a good problem, but something that we are going to have to account for in the future.



We cannot change the size of our current project, but we are looking forward to the end of the pandemic restrictions so that we can have the full 100 chairs available that we planned for.

Please be praying as we prepare the church for our first VBS (remember, its summer here) and first missions conference the last week of January and the first week of February, respectively. We are so excited to present the concept of being involved in world-wide missions to people who have been reached as a result of world-wide missions! Pray that God would not only call them to give, but also to go. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry here! God bless your 2021!

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