

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

January 9, 2017



We hope that you all have had a happy New Year! For us, the holiday season was anything but tranquil, and we feel like we have gone into the new year at full speed.

December started with the opportunity for me to take part in an evangelistic campaign on the opposite side of the country. A Mexican missionary, who is starting a work in a Portuguese speaking border town, needed workers who speak Portuguese to come and help Him do a 3-day evangelistic meeting. Each day we went door knocking and inviting people to come to the nightly services and each night there were three preachers. It was a difficult but rewarding trip as each day the temperatures were in the mid 90's during the day and rain and thunderstorms were a constant problem. In the evenings we were able to average over one hundred people, despite bugs descending by the thousands upon the area which tried to interrupt God's work. During the door knocking time, God allowed me to lead three people to Christ personally, and we had many people saved in the services each night.

Upon returning, I was surprised to learn that the people who would be graduating from the church's seminary in December had asked me to preach their graduation service. Seminary here is different from Bible college in the States. In Brazil, there are not large Bible colleges that have classes all day. In fact, this seminary does not have enough students to have graduation each year. Seminary here is four nights per week from 7:00 pm -10:30 pm and when you add in Wednesday night service and Sunday services it is a big commitment to do this for four years. There were three women and one man that graduated that night and what an honor it was to have two new people commit to studying in the seminary after the message.

All of this activity must have made the devil unhappy though. The day after graduation I was preaching the Sunday morning and evening services at a nearby church. Before graduation on Saturday and all day on Sunday, I had some discomfort in my left ear. On Sunday night the pain became unbearable and I, like any good man, waited until Tuesday to go to the doctor. I was diagnosed with a severe ear and throat infection and the doctor said that I was not to leave the house or even talk for the next 7 days! Unfortunately, with that happening the week before Christmas, it was hard to get into the Christmas spirit, but we had a wonderful Christmas all the same.

We are excited about 2018! We are taking every opportunity we can to better our Portuguese as we are looking forward to getting a new work started this year. Naomi will be getting even more involved with teaching children and the ladies groups and I will continue preaching and will be teaching some classes in the seminary. Please be in prayer for my preparation to teach in the seminary next month. I will be teaching each night for two weeks for over 2½ hours each night. This will be very different from preaching a sermon, but it is a necessary developmental step. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry. May God give you a blessed 2018!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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