

West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



March 1, 2026

A few weeks ago, I texted a missionary on deputation to let him know I was praying for him. His summarized response was, "It has gotten real discouraging... we've hit a wall."

Many pray for God to send more laborers into the harvest, yet few realize that over 30% of missionaries who surrender to the field never finish deputation. Think about that: nearly 1/3 of God-called men and women never make it to their destination. Some might suggest they "weren't cut out for it," but I've found that most of those who do not make it are deeply committed and very hardworking—they simply lack support and direction. When they reach out for help, they are often told to "pray more" or "keep on keeping on," but they rarely receive practical advice on what to do next.

Think of it this way: if you are building a house with no experience, no amount of prayer will hammer those nails into the boards correctly. Prayer does, however, allow God to send the right person to help you build. That is our goal through our work with Macedonia, Missions21, and now IFBMT (see our last letter). We want to ensure that everyone God calls actually makes it to the field.

As for the missionary who hit a wall? We discussed three new strategies he could implement immediately. Earlier today, he thanked me publicly on a call with other missionaries, sharing that his calendar is filling back up and he is excited for the future. To God be the glory!

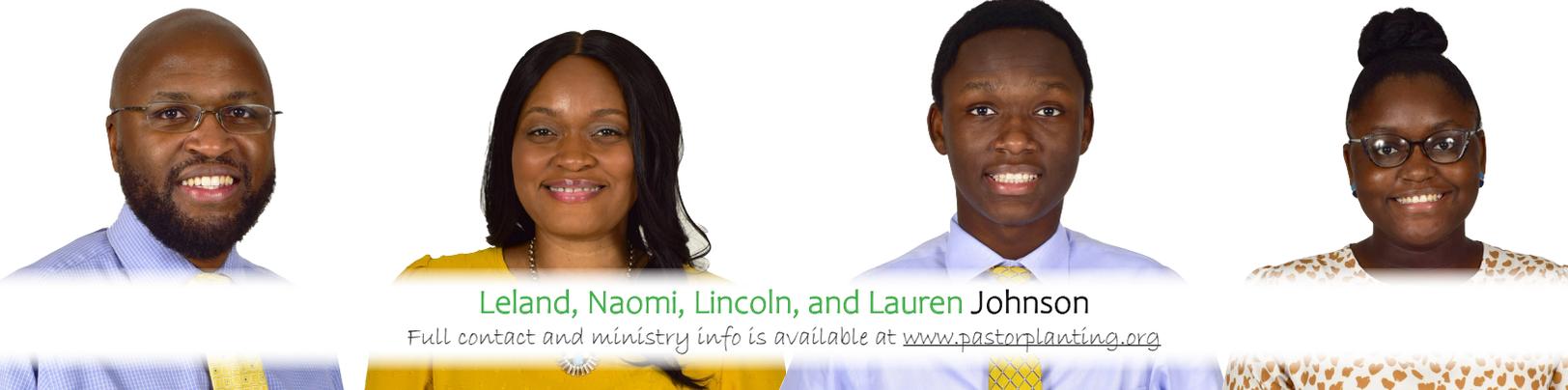
Beyond working with missionaries, there are several churches we work with to help get their missions programs back on track. A few weeks ago, we conducted a missions workshop at one such church. Despite snow and ice, over 70 people attended! The pastor shared that the church has seen incredible growth in their missions program as the members implemented what they learned last year and he is praying for even more growth this year!

Heartfelt Gratitude

I share these stories not to impress you with what God is doing through us, but to say thank you. Your faithful support allows us to impact missionaries and churches directly. Every dollar you give helps reach the world, and we truly could not do this without you.

Travel and Health

As we head into spring, the schedule gets even busier; our meeting calendar is completely full until mid-May, that is in addition to our other responsibilities. Naomi has been doing well—even though she fell and twisted her ankle pretty badly, she has almost completely recovered. Lincoln and Lauren are also doing well in college. Thank you for your continued prayers for us!



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

Full contact and ministry info is available at www.pastorplanting.org