

West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



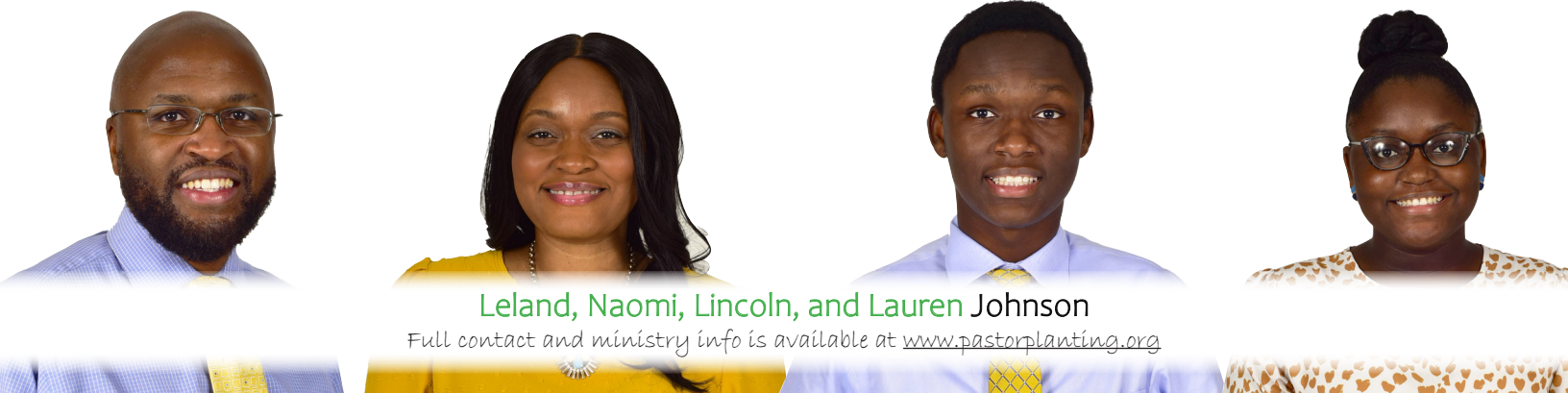
April 30, 2025

The six weeks since our last update have been a time of significant contrasts. With forty-one of the last fifty days spent on the road, we are so thankful for safety and the new perspective that God has given us on reaching the world. After finishing training with our new missionaries and missions conferences in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee, things got really busy.

I flew to the Northwest Territories of Canada, where I had been asked to preach in several towns at what seems like the edge of the earth. The first stop was a town of a few hundred people that is only accessible by plane, boat, or ice road. This small community has a church founded by a missionary but has not had a pastor in many years. The closest pastor is in a town a few hours away and travels there as often as he can for a service. Even without a full-time pastor, about fifteen believers gathered to worship God that Wednesday night! I preached five more times on the trip, two times in the church that is the hub for the area, and then three times with missionary Roy Stelzig at his church. When I sat down and talked with these missionary pastors, they did not talk about the need to do less. Besides the work they are already doing, they talked about three more towns that have no gospel witness and the need for them to plant churches in those towns.

From there, I flew back to the USA on Saturday, repacked and 24 hours later flew to Long Island in the Bahamas. We were there to determine the status of a property where a missionary had started a church many years ago. The church had closed, and the condition of the property was unknown. From the moment we arrived, God started working. The ferry captain who took us to the island knew the missionary from over twenty years ago, and his kids had attended the church daycare. The next day we met a couple who had been a part of the church who now attend a Brethren church because there is not an independent Baptist church on the island. One encounter after another, God confirmed that He still wants to do a great work there. The property is in rough shape but can be salvaged. People who die without Christ cannot be.

The situation on sunny Long Island and the situation in freezing Northern Canada are very much alike. Both locations have only a few thousand people at best; you need a boat or plane to get to them; and there are believers who need someone called to lead them and help them reach their world for Christ. No one who goes to either place will end up on the list of the fastest-growing churches, but there are still people there for whom Jesus died. They are people who just need someone willing to invest their lives in them and to take the Gospel to them. Is there not a cause?



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

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