

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

*missionaries to* **Brazil**

January 18, 2017



Wow, wow, wow! Language school is finally over and that first step of language learning is behind us. One year ago we were just planning to start and it is amazing how far God has brought us. We are still very far from “fluent”, but we have made it to the “conversational” stage. Please do not stop praying for our language learning just because language school is over! We still have a long way to go.

Not only is language school behind us, but also our first Christmas and our one year anniversary have come and gone. I could take this whole letter to recap how amazing God has been in the past year, but there is so much going on now to communicate. (We have posted a 1 year summary on our website.) Suffice it to say that we are so thankful to be here serving the Lord and are so excited about the future.

While we have not yet found a new place to live, we are now serving in our new church. It is a drive of an hour each way, but it has been incredible for us. I am now leading singing (which I avoided at all costs when I was a pastor!), and Naomi is helping in the nursery and with the children’s classes. I am also able to go out door to door several times each week with the pastor and am learning how to witness in Portuguese. I have been present when several people have received Christ as Savior and it is exciting to see that the Gospel is just as effective in any language. It also increases my desire to be able to lead someone to Christ in Portuguese one day. Also, starting at the beginning of next month, I will begin doing a Sunday School lesson at church. This is a great opportunity, but my goal is to progress past just translating and then reading the words in Portuguese as I have done in the past.

At the end of this month we have also planned a trip to Salvador (the city that, Lord willing, we will be planting churches). This will be Lincoln and Lauren’s first trip to the city and they are very excited. We will also be taking a young Brazilian man, Pedro, with us. He believes that God has called him into the ministry and has been working with me on my Portuguese since the end of language school. It is a great fit for both of us as I am able to practice Portuguese by discussing a lot of questions that he has about the Bible and ministry. We believe this will be a great opportunity for him to learn more about ministry as he spends time with us. Please pray with us as we investigate this city which is about the size of Charlotte, North Carolina with about twice as many people in the city in which God would have us live and start a church.

The letter space fills so quickly, and there is so much more to communicate that just will not fit. Please pray for Naomi’s doctor’s appointment next week as she has another cyst on her wrist in almost the same place that the last one was removed. Please be praying as I will be preaching for the first time at our new church at the end of February. Also, we have a new family picture that can be downloaded from our website for any churches that need an updated picture. Also, pray for Naomi as she will be playing her first piano special in church in a few more weeks. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are looking forward to a great 2017.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln & Lauren  
(704) 751-0015  
Johnsons@pastorplanting.org  
www.pastorplanting.org

SENDING CHURCH

Crossroads Baptist Church  
5811 Hoffmans Lane  
Bailey’s Crossroads, VA 22041  
Dr. Kenny Baldwin, Pastor

MISSIONS AGENCY

Baptist International  
Missions, Inc. #1528  
P.O. Box 9  
Harrison, TN 37341