

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**



March 31, 2019

At the end of last year, we spent some time considering what 2019 would look like. We thought about taking furlough early so that we could get back here sooner to plant the new work. However, God did not open that door, and now we understand why. Things have not slowed down; on the contrary, we are in a sprint to the finish of this term.

170% ANNUAL INTEREST RATE!

Upon learning of my background in banking, one pastor asked me to come and do a financial seminar for the church. The hardest part was trying to learn enough about the (corrupt) system here to speak competently. If you think our system is bad, imagine living in a country where the average annual credit card interest rate is upwards of 170% (no, that's not a typo)! Immediately after the seminar, several couples ask me to sit down with them privately. In one meeting, a wife told me how she and her husband have battled with their finances for over 20 years, causing fights, depression, and even her to question her salvation. She believes that God has brought us all the way to Brazil in answer to their prayers for help in this area!

The following week, I was to preach at a mission's conference at another church. What a blessing it was to be able to challenge people to be a part of God's program of reaching the world. At one point during the conference, I reminded the congregation that the call to serve God and the mission field cannot be that bad because they are our mission field, and they have not cooked and eaten us yet! It was great to see the smiles that on their faces as they realized that the mission field is full of people just like each of them, and everyone is someone's mission field. The highlight of the conference was when a man raised his hand to accept Christ after the first message. His wife was in tears as she told me how long they had been praying for her husband's salvation. He told me that it took him a while to understand the gospel message, but now there is no turning back.

Please keep us in your prayers over the next month, as the schedule is full. We will be going to a conference together, and then I will be going from one end of the country to the other preaching at several different meetings. Pray that God will bless and save souls and pray that God will keep Naomi and the kids safe as they work at home to finish up the school year. We so are thankful that my mom is down with us helping out during this busy time. Pray that the kids are able to finish the school year strong.

Two housekeeping notes: First, our plan is still to reach out to our churches to schedule meetings for furlough; however, we have received so many requests from our last letter that we have not even had time to reach out yet. If you have a specific date in mind for us to come, please let us know as soon as possible—the schedule is filling up quickly. If not, we still plan on reaching out to you. Second, we always love to receive mail and packages from you, but with our furlough upcoming, please do not send any more mail and packages after April 1. It is likely that they will not arrive in time for us to receive them before we leave.

**FURLOUGH
AUGUST 2019
THROUGH
MARCH 2020**

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