

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to *Brazil*



August 25, 2017

How can so much change so fast? When we last sent an update, Salvador was our potential place of ministry. Now? It is the place we will call home for years to come. God made it clear that He planned our four weeks in Salvador not as a survey, but as preparation for our move. One page is not sufficient to scratch the surface of what God is doing, but here are a few of the highlights.

Just after sending our last letter, we visited one of the few good Baptist churches in Salvador. (Here, almost every church that calls itself Baptist is “renovada,” which means they speak in tongues.) During the service, the pastor unexpectedly asked me to come back and preach for them on Sunday in the main service. I accepted, but with frantic spirit and only four days to prepare. When Sunday came, I was as prepared as I could be, but it all felt woefully inadequate. To make matters worse, the churches “praise and worship team” came out, and for about 40 minutes, they “praised and worshipped” the good right out of the room. (Music is a problem here, even in the fundamental churches.) During that time, I was thinking about how God had given me such an appropriate message from John 3: “Ye Must Be Born Again.” When it came time to preach, there were about 150 sets of eyes staring at me, which is by far the largest group I have preached to in Portuguese. During the invitation, three people walked the aisle for salvation. I was stunned. My main prayer request had been if we knew enough of the language and were “ready” to move. God spoke to my heart and said, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Please pray for Leone, Narione, and Arvey that they will grow in the faith and serve God. Arvey told the church that the past Wednesday night was his first time in church, and he heard the pastor ask me to preach. He said that the reason that he came back on Sunday was that he wanted to hear me try to preach in Portuguese, but God brought him back to save his soul. What a God we serve!

We have a new field address.
Please make note of the
change!

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There were many other things like this that God used to confirm to us that He wanted us here in Salvador, each one deserving its own page. But let me share just one more thing that God did that was extra special for Naomi.

While in Salvador, we had planned to see what types of homes were available. Before leaving São Paulo, we each wrote out a list of things we would like in a home, picked our top two things, and added them to our family prayer list. (In order to continue, I have to clarify one thing. Homes in Brazil do not have hot water. To wash dishes, you boil water; to take a shower, you plug in an electric shower head that heats the water. It was not something you pray about, it is just not something that is available.) We went to look at one particular house, and the house seemed perfect. It had 6.5 of the eight things on our list, and six more things that were on the other lists that were not in our top eight things. When the realtor walked into the kitchen, he said, “Oh, you are Americans. You are going to like this.” He turned on the kitchen sink and said, “The house has hot water to every tap in the house.” Naomi almost gave a shout! How much was the rent? The same as what we are paying for our apartment in São Paulo. God always answers prayers, but sometimes, He also gives the desires of your heart. Please pray for us as we transition to our new area and adjust to a very different sub-culture within Brazil.

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