

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

December 2, 2016



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! It is amazing that it is the end of the year already, which means that we are fast approaching the end of our first year here in Brazil. What a year it has been! I would love to fill this letter recounting all the great things that God has done this year, but there is such little space and so many things that God is doing now.

First let me say how excited we were to be a part of our first mission's month and missions conference at our church here in Brazil. It was tremendous to see the Brazilian people excited about reaching Brazil and the rest of the world. Our church does not set a dollar goal for missions, but does set a participation goal of getting everyone to give. I believe that the number will finish at about 75% of the church families participating! Praise God!

In our last letter, we asked for prayer for our future ministry plans with language school ending. Thank you to all those that have been praying, God has answered and we are moving in a clear direction. If you remember back to our August letter, one of the things that we were excited about was being able to help another missionary with his new church plant. We have been back several times over the past few months to try to be a blessing to them and this 4-month-old church. The Lord has made clear to us that this is where He wants us to be in order to continue our development and we will be moving there next month to be a part of that work. One of the most exciting (and terrifying) parts of this change is that this church has only 2 of the 3 services in Portuguese. The reason for this is that the missionary that started the church spoke Spanish before coming to Brazil and gives one service each week in Spanish. In addition to us soul-winning, and helping in various areas, I will also be teaching a Portuguese Bible study during the Spanish service. Ready? Of course not! There is a level of difficulty that is hard to communicate if you have never had to speak in a different language. For example, the KJV is written at about a 11th grade reading level, meaning that there are words used that are not necessarily "every day" words. The KJV equivalent in Portuguese is written at about the same grade level, meaning that the "every day", conversational Portuguese (2nd grade level) that we have learned, is not nearly sufficient to even read the Bible. Our Portuguese may not be sufficient, but our God is! Sometimes it can be more important to be "willing" than it can be to be "ready." There will be battles all along the way, but pray that God will give the people an understanding heart and ear. We will communicate so much more in our future letters.

As we are spending our last few weeks at our current work, our pastor has not only asked me to preach on December 4th, but Naomi will also be teaching a ladies group on December 3rd! I realize that this date may be before some receive this letter, but thank you for your continued general prayers, God knows the needs! Please be in prayer for this and our upcoming move.

Lastly, one logistical change that I need to make mention of, BIM! our missions agency has changed its mailing address for support. If you are currently mailing support, please make note of the change of address to the following: Baptist International Missions, INC; PO BOX 9, Harrison, TN 37341. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and that God gives you a great start to 2017.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MISSIONS AGENCY

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