

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**

July 10, 2017



About 1,257 miles. That is the approximate distance from New York City to Miami, Florida. It is also the approximate distance from where we live in Sao Paulo, Brazil to Salvador, Brazil, where we are right now. Sometimes, it may be easy to forget when you speak of massive countries like the USA (3,797,000 sq. miles) or Brazil (3,288,000 sq. mi) just how much cultural diversity there can be within a single country. If you have ever listened to a Southerner and a Bostonian communicating, you have realized that the same language can be spoken very differently.

We are in the middle of a 3.5-week extended stay in the area. If you remember from past letters, we were asking for prayer as we assess our ability to strike out on our own, survey the area for a potential place to start a church, and set a potential timetable for when to move to the area. On our last trip, we identified a large area of growth just north of the city (Salvador is about as large as Houston, Texas) as an area to spend time praying about and investigating. While it is difficult to say what the outcome will be while we are right in the middle of the process, a few things have happened that are worth sharing.

When we first came to Brazil and tried to get involved in a church, an easy area to serve without being able to communicate was the running the sound system at church. I started training a young man named Cadu who knew how to speak a little English, and we became friends. When we left to help the missionary we are currently helping, we did not stay in frequent contact. Just as we were preparing to leave for this trip, I noticed a status update from him that read, "moving to Salvador." I sent him a message, and he told me that he and his grandmother had just moved to Salvador. I asked him what area, and wouldn't you know, he moved to the area on the north side of town that we had been praying about.

Also, last month another missionary friend here in Brazil asked if he could pass along our contact information to a man he met at a conference at his church. He said that this man, Beto, and his wife, Rosa, live in Salvador and were saved and disciplined in an Independent Baptist Church that is now closed. The man told him that they are attending another type of church, but has been praying for another independent Baptist church to come to the area. When I contacted Beto, I asked him which area of Salvador he lives in. Wouldn't you know, he lives in an area on the north side of town! He and his wife invited us to their house for lunch last week, and he told us that they have been trained in children's ministry and have a strong desire to reach young people. He also showed us a part of his property that he has already sectioned off to donate to see a church built in his community.

We also were able to meet a wonderful missionary family that is in a town up the coast about an hour from Salvador. They have been in Brazil for over 20 years, and he said that he has been praying all that time for other missionaries to come to this area of Brazil. He told us that we are the first answer to that prayer. He also told us that whenever we are ready to move, he and his family will do anything and everything they can to help us. Please continue to pray for the remainder of our trip. Our God is so amazing.

We have a mid-year video update available with this and other great information about the first six months of the year. Go to our website www.pastorplanting.org to watch it today!

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