

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

missionaries to **Brazil**



February 28, 2017

Without a doubt, the highlight of the past several weeks was this past Sunday. In the last letter, we wrote that I would be preaching at the end of the month. If I had only known then what I know now! The missionary that we are working with had to take a trip back to the US and he had asked me to preach. Since the pastor and his family also play the music, teach the children's class, etc., we were expecting him to ask someone to come and help with the service. What we did not realize at the time was that by asking me to preach, he meant for us to do the entire service for them. Had we known this in the last letter, we would have asked for fasting as well as prayer!

Naomi, who had only asked for prayer for playing her first piano special, now had to practice feverishly to play 4 hymns and an offertory; else my song leading acapella might howl the people right out of the church. In addition to that, she also now needed to teach a lesson to the children in Portuguese for the first time. Lincoln had to learn how to do the sound equipment, since I would be leading the service. Lauren and Lincoln even volunteered to sing a song before the message. Oh, and I think I already mentioned that I was just starting to teach a Sunday school class as well.

I know, for all of you with such great faith this does not seem like a disaster in waiting, but for us... Tension was running high in the Johnson household, because we did not want to completely destroy the church while the pastor was away. Sunday, about 10 minutes after the start of the service, we thought God heard our prayers, no one was there for church! (Like I said, I will remind you of your great faith when you have a difficult situation in your life!) And then, the flood-gates opened. In the next 5 minutes about 25 people came through the doors, including some first-time visitors. Lincoln turned some dials, Naomi played some notes, Lauren and Lincoln sang some words, I quoted Scripture and said something, and God took all that and made a service out of it. At the end, the church was still standing, people said that they were blessed by the service, and the visitors said they would return. Proving Zechariah 4:6, "... not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Thank you for your constant prayers. They keep us afloat even when you do not know exactly what you are praying for.

There is never enough space! Thank you for your prayers for our trip to Salvador! We were able to make many new contacts, including a pastor who wants to introduce me to some other good pastors in the region. We were also able to narrow down our search to two areas of the city that we are praying about to start a church. Naomi was able to go to the doctor about her wrist and they did some tests. They have decided to wait a few weeks and have her return for more tests. They are not convinced that it is another cyst and want to watch it a little while longer. Also, please pray for traveling safety as we go to our first missionary field conference at the end of March. Also, please pray for several Fall (yes, it is almost Fall here) events that we have coming up at the church. God bless you all.

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