

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

April 1, 2016



One of the great blessings of being a missionary is sending prayer letters. It is an exercise that I would recommend to anyone, missionary or not. Sitting down every few weeks, thinking about and then writing about the ways that God is working is something that I never took time to do as a pastor but wish I would have.

The last few weeks have moved by very quickly. In our last letter we were just about to start language school and now we are at our first break. We have learned many new things in our first session, but the thing we have learned most is just how much we have to learn. It is always surprising when we are trying to use the words that we have learned, and we want to say a simple word, but it is not yet in our vocabulary. Last week, I was talking to a Brazilian man and wanted to say the word "up" but realized that I had not yet learned such a simple word. Language learning is an exercise in patience. However, it would not be fair to only focus on what we have not learned. Because God has given us the opportunity to go to a language school that was started for missionaries, we both have had the opportunity to give our first devotionals in Portuguese. How amazing it was to speak the Word of God in a different language for the first time. Many of the students are not missionaries and are not even saved, so our teachers encourage us to share the Gospel during the devotional. It is wonderful to remember that God can use even a few words to plant a seed that can change a life for eternity.

The past few weeks have contained many firsts, one of which was our first visit to the hospital. We had been sick for a few days and we couldn't help but think about Zika, Yellow Fever, Dengue, etc. We decided that we had better go and get checked. You cannot imagine how excited we were to hear that we just had the regular old flu virus. It still kept us down for several days, but it was a blessing that it was not anything more serious.

We have also been able to get involved in our first ministries here. Since we have started to learn pieces of the language, it has allowed us to start serving in the church. Naomi has joined the choir, and even though she does not understand all of the words she is singing, she is still able to be a blessing. I have started working with the sound ministry and thereby working to get some things fixed that have not been working for quite some time. Lincoln and Lauren are also working to learn the language. They are enjoying meeting new children and working to relearn many of the Bible stories in a completely new language.

We would like to pass along our field contact information, please keep in mind that our email addresses and phone numbers (including texts) still work to contact us here in Brazil. Thank you once again for your prayers and partnership in the ministry. God is still doing great things.

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