

the Johnson's missionaries to *Brazil*

May 23, 2016



Time seems to go by so quickly. It is hard to believe that it has been another 6 weeks since our last update. If you remember from our letters last year, I had the opportunity to travel to Salvador, Bahia (the city in which we will be church planting) for several days and was able to preach in a church in a nearby city. While Naomi was able to see the pictures and video of the trip and heard all about the trip, she still had not been there to see the city for herself. The highlight of our last several weeks was that, during our week off from language school, we were finally able to visit Salvador together. Since everyone read my experience last year, here is Salvador from Naomi's perspective.

I was excited to get the opportunity to travel to Salvador for the first time. The city of Salvador is full of history as it was the first capital of Brazil and one of the country's oldest cities. I was able to walk through the historic downtown area on the cobblestone streets called the Pelourinho and take a picture with a lady in her traditional Bahiano dress. It was amazing to ride Elevador Lacerda which is a huge elevator that connects the older lower city to the newer upper city. Salvador is a city of contrasts, I felt them as we visited each part of the city. From the cobblestone streets in the old historic district, to the modern skyscrapers in the business district, from the sprawling favelas, to the huge shopping malls (Brazilians love shopping malls) the city takes you from one extreme to the other and then back again.



The city of Salvador, which means Savior in Portuguese, is a city that, for the most part, is without the Savior. As we walked, drove, and met people in the city, I was constantly reminded of the reason why the Lord has led our family to this city, it is the people. The Bahian people are very friendly and full of life; yet they are steeped in the darkness of Catholicism mixed with African Spiritism, Pentecostalism, and other religions. There are more than 3 million people in the city, each in need of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a personal relationship with the Savior.

As we traveled around the city, we were looking and praying about what area of such a large city to live and start a church in. It is an important decision, so please pray that God will give us wisdom and direction. As we left, I was reminded of the verse that touched my heart when we first came to Brazil, "Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city." Lamentations 3:51. I am so excited about what God is going to do in the city and we cannot wait to begin the work there.

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