

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

*missionaries to* **Brazil**

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One of the things that we have asked for prayer for many times is for the Lord to open the door of opportunity for us. Well, He has been answering this prayer.

This past week, for example, the missionary we are working with called me on Saturday night and said that he had an emergency and needed me to preach Sunday morning. After seven years of preaching three times per week, you would think this would not be a big deal. However, the process of preparation and the amount of notes that you use in your first language are nothing compared to what you need when you are learning a second language. It would have been easy to say “No! I cannot do this. I do not have enough time to prepare.” But that would violate Philippians 4:13, so I said yes. I am almost certain that we were on someone’s prayer list on Sunday because God gave much grace.

This was not the only opportunity to see God work in the past few weeks. The opportunity presented itself to go and help another missionary about four hours away with a youth rally that he was hosting for about 100 teens from all around the area. It was a great blessing to be able to meet and talk with many people from his church. Several people mentioned that they have family or contacts in the city where we will be moving to start churches. What a blessing to begin building contacts already!

Another wonderful opportunity in the past several weeks was to go back to school. Not language school but to actual elementary school. When talking with a missionary who had started a Christian school in another state, we joked that it would be nice to go back to elementary school and learn with the kids. The missionary un-jokingly said that if we wanted to come and sit in on classes, we could. While Naomi and the kids were not able to go because of their own schooling, I was able to go and sit in on Portuguese classes each day with each class, kindergarten through fourth grade (yes, they have Portuguese class just like we have English class). How funny it must have been to see a grown man sitting in the little desks doing the phonics with the children, but the learning outweighed the giggles. It was a great help to hear the kids ask the same question we asked in language school. But this time, the teacher gave the actual grammatical rule for that word or phrase and did not say, “That’s just the way it is in Portuguese.”

Everywhere that we go here in Brazil, local pastors try desperately to get us to come to their city and start a church there. On various occasions, Brazilian pastors have either taken me to or talked to me about areas in their cities that need a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church. While we know where God has called us to minister, there is such a need for people to hear the call of Jesus to the fields that are white unto harvest. Please pray! Maybe God could use you or someone close to you to enter through that door of opportunity.

There is never adequate space to include everything that God is doing, like that God has already put us in contact with a saved man in Salvador (the city that we will be working in) who has been praying for an independent Baptist church to be started. Or the opportunity for our family to do a service in a new church this week for a pastor who will be out of town. Or the opportunity in July to spend several weeks in Salvador as we search for the area of town where we will be starting the work that God has called us to. Continue to pray because God continues to answer. God bless you all.

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