



NORTHEASTERN
Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

September 2, 2020

All that has happened since our last update is that we have started a church! To be honest, the days have been going by so fast that I did not realize until yesterday that it has been nearly eight weeks since our last prayer letter. So much has happened that this letter will have to be rapid fire.

While we were looking for a place to live, the realtor took me to an apartment that was listed as having three bedrooms but only had two. But it was not a waste of time—it was God-ordained. While I was there, the owner said to the realtor that his commercial building was going to be available to rent out, and he needed her help. I overheard the conversation and asked if the building would work for a church. He said that it would work very well, and a few days later, we went to see the building. Everything was great! It had plenty of space for a children's area, classroom space, a fellowship hall, and offices. The only problems, which he did not explain beforehand, were that it did not have anywhere to use as a sanctuary, and it would not be available until the beginning of September!

After praying for the Lord's guidance, we talked with the owners about lowering the rent for the first several years to help cover part of the cost of building a sanctuary over part of the parking lot. We also talked to them about several other things we would need to do to make the space work for a church. They agreed to everything! Even more miraculously, about a week after telling us that the building would not be available until the first of September, they called us and told us that the people currently leasing the building called and said they were moving out early, and the building would be available to us the next day, four weeks early!

Even with the pandemic and the restriction on churches meeting, we were able to have our first service this past Sunday afternoon! We could not have a big inauguration service because of the rules in place here in Brazil, so we started with a regular service. We had four first-time visitors from the neighborhood where the church is located. One of those visitors, Carmen, said that she had been praying for a church to open near her house and now that the church has opened, she is going to help us fill it up with people!

We are limited right now to 50 people maximum with 3–4 feet between each person, which means that we can only have a maximum of 24 people in the room we are using for services. Still, through our team's efforts over the past few weeks, we have seen ten people saved! We have been out soul-winning almost every day, even with masks on, and we are seeing the Holy Spirit convict and call people to repentance.

Pray that the owners of the building resolve a problem with one of the neighbors soon so that we can begin construction on the area we will use as a sanctuary. Continue to pray for us!

**WE HAVE
STARTED A
CHURCH!**

**10 PEOPLE
SAVED!**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln & Lauren
(704) 751-0015
Johnsons@pastorplanting.org
www.pastorplanting.org

SENDING CHURCH

Crossroads Baptist Church
5811 Hoffmans Lane
Bailey's Crossroads, VA 22041
Dr. Kenny Baldwin, Pastor

MISSIONS AGENCY

Baptist International
Missions, Inc. #1528
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341