



THE LOCKHARTS

DIRECTOR OF DEPUTATION

WORLD WIDE
NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

Dear Praying Friends,

April 2018

Some time ago, our family returned to America on a medical furlough. Esther almost died at the hospital in Brazil. Her recovery was not going well. We came to the US to secure proper medical attention and then return to Brazil. Various times over this past year, we made plans for our return to Brazil. Each time we planned to return, Esther's disease would flare, and the door would close. For a while, we wrestled with God, not wanting Him to remove us from our place of service.

Ten years of our lives were spent in missions. Brazil became our home. Many trials came, and God saw us through each of them. God stretched us, altered our way of life, and enlarged our hearts to love the people of Brazil. We saw lives affected with the Gospel.

So much work was yet to be accomplished. Multitudes still groped about in the darkness of sin. Friendships with the unsaved developed. The Gospel was preached. Prayers prayed. Tears shed. The harvest was ripening. God would bring the increase. The journey had only begun. Retreat was not an option. God had planted us, and the mere thought of being uprooted brought intense pain.

But God, the Gentle Commander of life's ship, anchors us where He desires. He captains us through the waves where He wants, and again lowers the anchor for as long as He will. Dismantling every objection and exposing every self-ambition, God graciously reminded us that we are but "pilgrims on the earth," and that "the steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD." Fight we must, but not against God's will. Serve we must, but not in the place of our choosing. Follow we must, but only in the footsteps of Jesus.

Soon after accepting that God indeed closed the door to Brazil, we made a phone call to our mission agency. The suggestion given was that perhaps God had closed one door so that He might open another. World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions serves God's great commission partners so that they can focus on giving and going into all the world. Serving 112 missionary families in 38 different countries results in a steadily growing workload. We were asked to help carry that load. Once again, God lowered the anchor of our ship, ushering us into a new season of life and ministry.

Upon accepting this new place of service, we began an over 15 thousand mile trip to meet each pastor of our supporting churches to communicate God's dealings with us. Fulfilling the great commission has not ceased. It has only expanded from Rondonópolis, Brazil to the rest of the world. Not only are we dedicated to preaching the Gospel, but we are also engaged in assisting local churches to get their missionaries to the mission field as quickly as possible. As Director of Deputation, we work daily to help our new missionaries take their first steps toward the mission field.

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Sending Church: Maranatha Baptist Church | 413 Polkville Rd. | Shelby, NC 28150
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One chapter of our lives has closed. A new one has begun. We continue to live by faith. We do not receive a salary. Our work relies on the support of local churches who desire to help us serve their missionaries. Many of you supported us in our mission work for over ten years. We are deeply grateful. Some churches have agreed to maintain support. Thank you. Your investment goes beyond our family to new missionaries leaving for the field each year. For others, would you consider continuing with us in prayer and financial support also during this next chapter of life?

With Grateful Hearts,
Jeremy and Esther Lockhart



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