



PLEASE PRAY FOR

JOEL SMOTHERS

missionary to
BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

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Dear Praying Partners,

April 28, 2016

Ps 107:8 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! Though it is not my regular scheduled update, I would like to share with everyone the goodness of the Lord in my life and how He has answered prayers once again. Some may already know of this but I want to write a letter so that everyone is informed of the changes the Lord is bringing in my life.

In August of last year, I was in a church in Alabama and after the service a young lady approached me and gave me an email address of her best friend, Noel Ring, with the idea that we could become friends. At first, I was very hesitant to even consider emailing a young lady that I had never met and knew nothing about. After prayerfully considering it for a few weeks I decided that I would write and introduce myself and let the Lord lead as to whether we would get to know each other. By the end of February, after exchanging a series of emails and phone calls we found that the Lord has directed us both to this point in our lives. After prayer and counsel, I talked with her father about further pursuing our relationship. Since then we have spent many hours of Skype and phone calls getting to know one another better.

Noel has been working in Puerto Rico in a Baptist college as a teacher and student supervisor, as well as being a part of the ministries in Templo Biblico Bautista. Much to our surprise, the Lord provided for me to have the opportunity to go to Puerto Rico and visit with her mid-April. Though it was only four days, we were able to spend most of the time together and learn much about each other. The Lord used this time to confirm to us His will in bringing us together and eventually joining our lives and ministries.



Currently, she is wrapping up the school year and will have their graduation May 6. She will be flying in to Greenville, SC May 17 where she will be spending the summer with one of her sisters and her family. I am trying to set up as many meetings in the area so we will be able to spend much of the time together during the week. As of right now, Noel is committed to another year of teaching through May of 2017. We would covet your prayers that the Lord would continue to lead and guide us in our relationship. Also, that He will show us His timing in moving forward.

Yours for the souls of Brazil,
Joel Smothers.



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