

PLEASE PRAY FOR

JOEL & NOEL  
**SMOTHERS**  
*missionaries to*  
**BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL**

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Dear Praying Partners,

June 28, 2018

**Jeremiah 10:23**, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." These last two months have certainly been directed by God and not us. We have traveled around five thousand miles by car going through eleven different states plus several thousand more miles by plane to Brazil. Through it all we have seen the Lord bless us countless times and have made many new friends along the way. We are excited and thankful to have three new supporting churches bringing us to 65% of our needed support.

RECENT EVENTS

The meetings in Missouri and Arkansas went well and we enjoyed our time with each church as well other missionaries we met. It was also nice to visit with some dear friends in Huntsville, Alabama who were missionaries in Brazil for many years and worked with Noel's parents. The Lord blessed us with another missions conference in Ocala, Florida the end of May before we went to Maryland and flew out to Brazil. It was a blessing to return from Brazil in time to catch the last two days of Family Fellowship Week with our mission board in Shelby, North Carolina.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

We will have a meeting in Maryland this coming Sunday with one of our newest supporting churches. Joel presented at this church about a year and a half ago and they would like to meet Noel and have asked us to come by for another meeting. We will then be heading to Florida for a couple of weeks in preparation for Joel's ordination on July 21st. In August, we will be mostly at home in North Carolina preparing for our son's arrival! We do have one meeting close to home on the 12th and Joel is trying to get some others scheduled in the area.

PREPARING FOR THE FIELD

Follow-up on language studies: Joel has taken a couple of trial lessons with different teachers to decide which teacher he would prefer to use. After talking it over with the Dickens, he has chosen the teacher he feels confident would provide him with the best opportunity to learn well. His required study books are ordered and he is ready to get going when those come in.

Brazil trip and visas: Our trip to Brazil was fulfilling in that we were able to get Noel's residency card as hoped, but we now have more unanswered questions in regards to getting Joel and baby their permanent residency visas. Brazil does not recognize American marriage certificates and so they do not see us as being married, therefore we have to have our certificate officially translated and take it in to the consulate to attempt to get Joel registered under Noel. Unfortunately, there was a law changed earlier this year that may also affect the residency process. Please pray for us as we try to figure out what we need to do and the paperwork needed to complete these processes. We enjoyed visiting the Dickens in Belo Jardim as well as making a trip over to Pesqueira. Noel was surprised at just how many differences there were between the south where she grew up and the northeast where God has called us to serve Him. It was a blessing to see many new faces since Joel visited in April 2014 for his survey trip. God is truly doing a work in the city of Belo Jardim and we cannot wait to get there and be a part of it.

Thank you for your continued prayers, they are a blessing and help to us every day!

Yours for the souls of Brazil,  
Joel, Noel, and baby Smothers.

**Prayer Praises:**

Good meetings  
Good trip to Brazil  
New Support

**Prayer Requests:**

Joel's ordination  
Visa situation  
Language school



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