



# THE *Smothers* FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING IN BELO JARDIM  
AND PESQUEIRA, BRAZIL

Dear Prayer Partners,

Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. As Thanksgiving has come and gone, I am reminded of this verse and how we should always be thankful and praising the Lord for His goodness to us. We certainly have much to be thankful for this year as we have seen the Lord provide for our needs through deputation and have reached the field. I apologize for the lateness and length of this letter, but we have been quite busy since getting in country and I want to give you all an informative look into what God has been doing and the ministry we have come here to be a part of.

## MOVE TO THE FIELD

After Joel returned from his house hunting trip to Brazil, we had a commissioning service at our home church in Florida and said many goodbyes to all our church family on Sunday October 6th. We then drove down to Fort Lauderdale, Florida with Joel's parents and spent a day and a half there before flying out on Thursday, October 10th. We are grateful that we had no problems at check in and only one out of fifteen totes was just overweight but the clerk let it go without issue. Gabe did very well on the eight hour flight down and slept most of the way, thankfully the cabin pressure did not seem to bother him at all. The Lord provided us with a fully furnished apartment close to the center of town which puts us in a great location here in the city. This is an abnormality in Brazil and especially in the interior. We currently have it rented for six months through the end of March. Please pray that the Lord will give us guidance in whether we should look for an actual house to rent long term or renew the contract here for a longer period. There are both positives and negatives to staying here long term, but there are not many houses available for us to look into renting.

## ARRIVING ON THE FIELD

We officially arrived on the field on October 11th. This ended up being a very special time for us as it was also the 50th anniversary of Brother James Nash, a missionary that has really done a lot of pioneer work in this area. The Saturday after we got here we had a gathering of seven different churches that he has had the opportunity to influence, a few of which he personally started, to celebrate his time of ministry here. His sending pastor, one of our supporting pastors as well, came down to be a part of the celebration and was on the same flight as us and was able to be a big help with getting all our luggage through the airport. We are excited to be here after four and a half years of deputation to begin our ministry here with Joel and Cynthia Dickens and their four children, Morgan, Aydan, Daniella, and Abigail!! We are grateful for their help in getting us setup here and allowing us to take part in the ministry here. One thing that we are in need of still is a car. We are currently using the Dickens' old car when necessary, but are need of our own. We need our Jeep in the states to sell so we can use that money to purchase a vehicle here. Please pray that the Jeep would sell soon and for a decent price.



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## THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY

The Lord has truly blessed the work here and we have several families that attend regularly. Most of them are young families with small children. Due to this, they have been in need of a nursery and have just not been able to get one started. This has mostly been a result of not having enough space to do so. The church is currently renting a one room commercial building that they separated into an auditorium space and storage room. This had met their needs for quite some time, but has lately become an issue of needing more space to do more things. Just last month the upstairs portion of the building, which is set up as a three bedroom apartment, became available for rent. After discussing it with the Dickens, we decided to split the rent so that we can have the extra space and be able to start a nursery. This has become Noel's ministry as Cynthia is already busy with ladies' meetings and the primary age Sunday school. Joel's focus right now is language school. Unfortunately, he was not able to get started on classes immediately due to an internet issue and his teacher not being available. His first class is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd with a follow-up class the following Friday. Please pray that his studies go well and he can learn quickly!

## FAMILY

Everyone has been doing well with the transition so far and we are getting used to the heat, fortunately our apartment is up high enough to get a good breeze most of the time. The main difficulty is dealing with the water rationing that is still in effect due to a lack of rain. The last we heard was that the reservoir was around 20% capacity. We have had a couple of days with short showers but not near what we need to replenish the supply. Gabe is still a little unsure about people speaking Portuguese to him but otherwise is doing really well in adapting to the new surroundings. He is running nonstop and trying to say new words every day.

Thank you for your prayers us, we need them every day!

Yours for the Souls of Brazil,  
Joel, Noel, and Gabriel Smothers

### **Prayer Praises:**

- Safe and good flight
- Arrival on field
- New ministry opportunities
- Good health
- Language classes starting

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Housing - long-term
- Jeep to sell
- Vehicle here
- Rain
- Daily ministry needs

