



THE *Smothers* FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING IN BELO JARDIM AND PESQUEIRA, BRAZIL

Dear Prayer Partners,

May 14, 2020

Please forgive this very late letter. It has been difficult to formulate my thoughts and get them written down recently. In the last few months we have had several changes take place. One that has affected most everyone is the Covid-19 which has put us along with the majority of the world in quarantine. This has made ministry here a little interesting as we have been using Zoom and Facebook live for all our services. Also it has affected the members of the church as many of them have been out of work since the quarantine began March 20th. One good change is our water situation, we have been getting lots of rain and the water control center just reduced the rationing and we are now on a rotation of 5 days with water and 5 without. Another good change has been our move to a new house. Our contract on the apartment ended in March and the Lord blessed us with a wonderful house with a good size yard. Fortunately, we were able to get moved in just before the quarantine began.



Some other good news was the sale of our Jeep and purchase of a vehicle here. The Lord blessed us with a 2011 Chevrolet Zafira with only 86,000 kilometers. This has been a major help in the ministry and our daily lives.

Joel's language lessons have come to a pause as they were interrupted first by our move and second by the quarantine. He also decided to switch teachers as the one he started with was not able to devote the amount of time he was wanting to commit to the work. Please pray that he will be able to get started back with the new teacher soon and progress quickly in learning.

In other family news, we found out in late March that we were expecting our second child. Shortly after finding out Noel made an appointment to see the doctor here in town to make sure everything was fine. After doing an ultrasound we were informed that our baby had a condition called fetal bradycardia which results in a weak heart and slow heartbeat. The baby passed away around 6 and half weeks old. Noel has recovered from the miscarriage and though sorrowful for the loss is grateful for the time she had to carry our second child. Gabe seems to grow overnight at times and is learning new words every day.

Thank you all for your continued prayers for us and the ministry here.

PRAYER PRAISE:

Sell of Jeep
New vehicle
New house

PRAYER REQUEST:

Language lessons
Restart of services soon
Jobs for the members of the church

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



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