



# THE *Smothers* FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING IN BELO JARDIM  
AND PESQUEIRA, BRAZIL

Dear Prayer Partners,

January 11, 2022

Three months ago today we celebrated two years of being in Brasil. When we came to Belo Jardim, the plan was to be here for the time needed for Joel to learn the language and then move to a neighboring city to begin a new work. Early last year, we began to earnestly seek God's leading in whether it be His will for us to do that or not. As we prayed and sought God's will, we began to feel the need to look further away from our comfort zone. The Lord directed us to a city called Teresina which is the capital of the next state over from us. This city has an estimated population of about a million people. There are also seventeen other cities within a two hours' drive that have a combined population of around five hundred thousand people. After talking with several other missionaries and national pastors we have concluded that there are no other fundamental, Baptist missionaries or pastors working in these cities. In October, Joel and Bro. Dickens took a one-week trip to survey the city and get an idea if our findings were correct or not. Though there was a minor issue with the car on the way up and it had to go in to the shop the first two days, the trip went well and we were pleased to know that God was giving us confirmation that we were following His direction. In December, we went again, this time as a family, and stayed for a week and a half. On this trip we were able to do a lot more driving around the city and talking with various people that we met. We were surprised to encounter a lot of familiarity with "baptist" by name and found a few "baptist" churches. Upon further study, we have found these churches to be greatly impacted by the contemporary movement and have calvinistic tendencies. Our conclusion is that there is a lot of work that needs to be done in this city and a lot of people that need the pure, Biblical truth! Our desire is to serve our Lord and Savior in the city of Teresina for as long as He will keep us there and see churches started and national pastors leading them to be independent works.



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We will be looking for houses next week and Lord willing moving the second week of February. There are many factors needed to come together for all of this to work out and we ask that you pray for us as we seek answers and provisions. We know that God is in control and have already seen Him provide for needs that we have with this move. One such need is a moving truck. Seeing that we are going to a completely new city and do not have anyone that we know there, we need a shipping service that provides unloading assistance, which is a rarity here.

One main praise is that we have found medical care for Noel and our coming son. The added blessing is that it is much closer care to our preferences than we could find where we are now.

Our current house rental contract ends March 13 and there will be a number of things that Joel will need to do to turn the keys in to the real estate office. Please pray that he will be able to finish these things quickly and that there will not be any complications with turning the keys back in.

We deeply appreciate all your faithful prayers and support for us! We know that we could not be here without you all.

Yours for the souls of Teresina - Brasil,  
Joel, Noel, Gabriel and Baby Smothers

## **Prayer Praises:**

God's leading  
God's provisions  
Medical needs resolved  
Travel mercies  
Car maintenance

## **Prayer Requests:**

House rental contract  
Moving truck  
Closing and turning in keys of current house  
Continued safety in much traveling  
Car working well for many miles of driving



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