



Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

The *Smothers* family

Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

January 9, 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings and a happy New Year! We have officially passed and survived the extreme heat and will be entering our rainy season. Though there were some days when we felt the heat more than others, we really didn't struggle with it too much.



We are excited to introduce you all to Morgana and Emanuelle. Morgana became the secretary at Noel's doctors' office just before Samuel's birth and we had not had much communication with her until our check up for Samuel. During that visit, Noel's mom was here and was able to share the Gospel with her. In a recent return visit, she asked Noel about doing a Bible study. They have been studying twice a week for several weeks now and she has grown a lot since confirming her salvation. Please pray for Morgana as she is a single mother and has many different areas in her life that need spiritual growth. Emanuelle is 8 years old and instantly became best friends with Gabe. Please pray for Emanuelle to understand her need of salvation and accept Christ as her Savior.



In October, Brasil held it's presidential election and, unfortunately, the candidate that was a former president who had been jailed for crimes he committed against the people during his original presidency, was reelected. He, along with many of his cabinet, would like to close all churches and stop us from publicly preaching the Gospel. Please pray that God would allow us to remain here and for His safety in proclaiming His name. The first of the year began his installment as president.

Two important personal needs that we need prayer for at the moment are housing and vehicle. We have been without our car for about three months now while Joel has been addressing some mechanical issues. The main problem is that sourcing and shipping parts here is not easy. Our particular vehicle is uncommon and little known in our area though it is a popular vehicle in much of the rest of the country. For that reason we are not able to get parts locally and finding them online is tricky. Then, there is the waiting time for them to ship here (we waited a whole month for just one part). Unfortunately, this last part has not totally fixed the problem. Please pray for Joel as he continues to diagnose the issue. Our house rent will need to be renewed by the 19th of January or we will need to have a contract on a different house to be able to be moved out of here by the 16th of February. Our ultimate desire would be to own a house of our own but that is currently not an available option. There are a number of factors as to why we might need to move out of this house, with both pros and cons to moving. The number one difficulty would be needing to move without the car running. Please pray that we will make the right decision and God will direct us according to His will.

We are thankful and praise God for good health this past year and two rapidly growing boys. Gabe is enjoying his school and learning new things each day. Sam has begun pulling himself to his feet and will soon be trotting around after his big brother. We thank you for all your prayers and pray the Lord blesses you this year!

Prayer Praises:

Bible study - Morgana/ Emanuelle
Another year to serve the Lord
Good health/safety

Prayer Requests:

Car repairs
House contract
New government installment
Salvation of contacts

Sending Church:
Trinity Baptist Church
5301 Hwy. 90
Milton, Fl 32571

Field Address:
Rua Jonas Silva, 91
Bairro: São Cristóvão
Teresina, Brasil 64056-055

Yours for the souls of Brasil,
Joel, Noel, Gabriel and Samuel

WORLD WIDE
NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS