



Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

# The *Smothers* family

## Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

Dear Prayer Partners,

October 13, 2023

Thank you for your prayers for us during this time of separation while Joel has been on short-term furlough. The Lord has greatly blessed and things have been going well despite the difficult circumstances.

Joel arrived in the States July 29 and his travels have been going well! The Lord has given him many wonderful meetings and a completely full schedule. Upon his return to the States he spent the first few weeks around our hometown and had some good meetings with our home church and a couple other churches in the area. Praise the Lord one them has already voted to begin supporting us! He then traveled to south Florida for three weeks of meetings and greatly enjoyed his time in several new churches. He also was in a church in Louisiana before heading up to North Carolina for a couple of missions conferences. The last few weeks of meetings he will be in Michigan and Indiana and his return to Brazil is set for November 19th.



Noel and the boys have been doing well and the Lord has taken great care of them in Joel's absence. Daniella Dickens, the oldest daughter of the missionaries we worked with in Belo Jardim, is there with her now and will stay until Joel's return in November. She has been a blessing and help to Noel around the house and assisting with the boys. Noel was able to have a birthday party for Gabe last month and had several people come that we have been reaching out to. One them was Geovanna, who Nikayla shared the Gospel with when she was here last summer. She had many questions about the differences between the baptists that are here and our beliefs as baptists. Noel was able to share with the Gospel with her again and she was very attentive and interested in our distinction as independent baptists as her family is a part of the baptist convention that is prevalent in the city.



Unfortunately, the house saga continues. A few weeks ago Joel received a message from the owner himself requesting a time to bring someone by the house to look at it. After refusing to set up an appointment based on what happened in April and not wanting Noel to have to deal with it on her own, they used a provision in the law to demand an "inspection" of the house. Basically siting that we were refusing them because the house was either unoccupied or in such disrepair that we didn't want them to know about it. The good thing that came from this was that we were able to meet the owner in person and confronted him about the situation that happened in April and found that he knew nothing about our willingness to dissolve the contract and return the

house to him at that time. We were able to have a reasonable conversation with him and now understand where we each stand much better. We are on somewhat better terms with the owner and it is now imperative that we find a new place to rent before February next year.

Please continue to pray for our outreach ministries. Sadly, Morgana has made the decision to no longer continue doing Bible studies. We had a discussion with her regarding her query about remarriage and she did not take it well when we told her that Biblically she could not get remarried and that we would not be in favor of her doing so. We are leaving her in God's hands and trusting that He will work in her heart to accept the Truth. Also, continue to pray for Mislene. She has faithfully been doing studies with Noel but has had a difficult trial this past week. As a nurse, she has been working at a public hospital and was let go due to not being politically affiliated with the powers that be in the hospital administration. We are also seeing a slow breakthrough with Aline and Wesley. Recently there was a medical difficulty in the family and Aline reached out to Noel immediately asking for prayer on their behalf. Noel has also had the opportunity to meet Wesley's mother, Dona Maria, and begin a friendship with her. She has a background in the Assembly of God and has recently departed ways with them and is searching for the Truth.



**PRAYER PRAISES:**

- Joel's safe arrival to the States
- Joel's travels and meetings
- Noel and the boy's safety in Brazil
- Daniella's arrival in Teresina
- Gabe's birthday party
- Bible studies and outreaches

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Joel's remaining meetings
- Joel's return to Brazil
- Morgana's spiritual needs
- Continued outreach opportunities
- Housing needs

Thank you for your faithful prayers on our behalf. May God bless each of you and the work in your Jerusalems.

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

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

