



Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

# The *Smothers* family

## Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

Dear Prayer Partners,

August 9, 2024

Greetings from super sunny Brazil! That is for our neck of the woods at least! Not sure if the uniqueness of having rain every day for two to three months straight and then none for twice that length of time will ever get old.

Thank you for your prayers for Joel's wrist. The healing has gone well and he has about 80 percent or so of complete movement. He still has some limits to lifting and full strength in his grip. We are thankful that he has been able to resume many activities around the house.

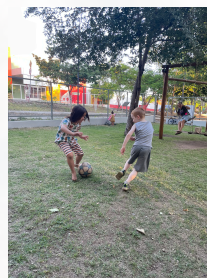
In June, we made a trip to the consulate to renew Gabe's passport. We were planning to do this trip around the time of Joel's accident and had to wait until he could travel. The plan was for Joel and Gabe to fly to Recife for a day to complete this procedure. In process of getting things together to do it we found out that it would be necessary for both Joel and Noel to be present. With the distance to drive again(16 hours minimum) and the cost for us all to fly, we were unsure of how this trip would be possible even though it was very necessary. Fortunately, we were informed of a secondary office in Fortaleza which is the capital of Ceará, another state to the northeast of us. It was half the distance and a much easier experience than the actual consulate in Recife. While there we were able to visit the beach and let the boys experience the ocean for a little bit of fun. His Brazilian visa is due to expire in October and we have applied for renewal and permanent residency.



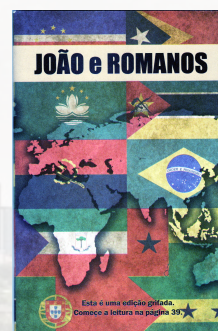
Recently, Noel has been walking the exercise loop of our neighborhood park with Camila, one of our neighbors we mentioned in the last letter. This has given her a chance to have some good conversations with her and also meet others that are out walking. One of those is a man named Aristênio, he is an older man who has been in the Assembly of God for most of his life until a few years ago when his wife, Maria, suffered a stroke and a heart attack and has been bedridden since. He retired from his job and now stays at home to care for her needs with the help of hospice type nurses. The saddening fact is that no-one from



his church has gone to visit him and his wife during this time. We have been able to share the Gospel with him and visit with them a couple of times. Noel has been able to meet others but has not been able to really talk with them except to give them tracts. We continue to have a lot of interaction with the Morais family and have really enjoyed their friendship. Gabe has enjoyed making friends at the park to play soccer with.



Last year while Joel was in the states for short term furlough we were blessed to have a church do a project putting together 15,000 Portuguese and 5,000 Spanish John and Romans. We are excited to let you know that they have arrived in good condition and we are looking forward to getting passed out with our Bible study that uses references from John and Romans to introduce and teach salvation. We are hoping to use these to reach people in shops and grocery stores that we have befriended but due to working hours and such have not been able to fully give them the Gospel.



The family is all doing well and Gabe will be starting first grade next week. He will also be doing Portuguese lessons with Camila twice a week to help him learn to speak it better. She is taking college courses to be a teacher and asked to do lessons with him as part of her practical studies.



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

### **PRAYER PRAISES:**

Joel's healing  
Safe trip to and from Fortaleza  
Passport and visa renewal  
Meeting neighbors  
John and Romans arrived

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Continued healing for Joel  
Continued outreach  
John and Romans distribution

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

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