



Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

The *Smothers* family

Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

Dear Prayer Partners,

December 22, 2025

We are very grateful for your prayers as they have definitely been needed the past few months. We have seen God's hand at work and felt His guidance.

Noel's health has been one major point of seeing God's hand at work. The end of July, we were pleasantly surprised to receive the news of a new little life being gifted to us as well as recently finding that it is a girl! While this has been exciting news, it has also come with some challenges. In the first few weeks we had some concerning moments when Noel felt like there was possible danger to the baby. After doing numerous tests, her doctor has been able to diagnose her as having a condition of thrombosis which requires her to have daily, blood thinner injections for the duration of the pregnancy. In September, we had a scare as she developed a kidney infection which put her in the hospital for a week of IV treatments to flush it out of her system. Though the hospital usually requires the patient to have a person stay with them at all times, which was not possible for Joel to be able to do so and care for the boys, we are grateful to have friends who were able and willing to stay with her at different times so that she was not alone the entire time. The nursing staff was also very understanding of our situation and accommodated us as much as they could and Noel was able to get to know many of them very well and shared tracts with all of them. As a thank you, Joel made a large batch of cookies to which the entire staff came to the room periodically to get some. Unfortunately, she had another episode in mid-November where both kidneys were severely infected and she had to undergo another



week of internment for antibiotic injections. Many of the nurses from the first time were surprised to see her back in the hospital but through it Noel was able to speak with some of them more extensively and has their contact info. We were able to give out many John and Romans booklets with our Bible study and are praying that we will see some studies started as a result. Throughout all of this we have sensed God's presence and peace. We are so excited to have this little life coming to us and know that God is in control as always.



Many have asked about the car situation. After much prayer and consideration, we came to the conclusion that we needed a newer, more dependable car. After a few weeks of looking around here, we found that the availability was not sufficient for the size/style of car we were looking for, so Joel made a trip to Fortaleza(neighboring state capital about 9 hours from us) where there were more options and better prices. God provided us with a 2023 Chevrolet Spin(van) with only 41,500 kilometers on it. It is a big blessing to have a dependable vehicle again and be able to drive to appointments and ministry needs as they arise.



This time of the year brings us once again to the point of needing to renew our house rental contract. While we are still interested in owning, we have explored some avenues on that topic but God has not opened any doors for us to seriously pursue that at the moment. We are very thankful that the renewal for this next year was accomplished without any complications and no increase to our monthly payments. We are grateful to have a good, safe home to fulfill the work that God has called us to do here.

We have continued our Sunday School Bible studies as well as several other individual studies. We appreciate your prayers as we lead these that God has given to us and pray that we will see others desire to study the truths of God's Word and their need of the Savior.

One other area of need that we have to consider is the need of taking a full, family furlough. There are several things that need to come together for this to happen and we are praying for that to come about this next year.

The boys are steadily growing and learning every day and are very excited to have a little sister soon. They are both very intrigued with getting to feel her move or kick them when they sit on Noel's lap.

We pray you all have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the Lord bless you all in this new year!

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

PRAYER PRAISES:

Baby girl due in March
Continued health and care
New car
Bible studies

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health of Noel and baby
Active Bible studies
New Bible studies
Furlough preparation

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

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