



Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

# The *Smothers* family

## Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

Dear Prayer Partners,

February 28, 2025

Greetings from a hot, humid and muggy Teresina, Brasil. Unfortunately, our rainy season has again been very sporadic this year and we have only had a few days of continuous rain like is normal for this time of year. One challenge that this weather brings is the mosquitos in mass. We are thankful to have screens on the windows for this house that keep the majority of them out but they still seem to find the littlest of openings to come in. It also keeps us from being able to go out and walk or let the boys outside to play which brings on the “cabin fever” feel. Please pray that we will see more rain the next couple of months and that we will not have to go to water rationing later in the year during dry season.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Noel and the baby. They have been doing great the last couple of months and we are eagerly waiting for our little girl’s birth. We are excited to have Joel’s mom come from the states to help take care of the boys so that Joel can accompany Noel in the hospital. Please pray for her travels next week as she and Dad will be driving to Orlando where she will fly out and Dad will return to Milton, Fl. Also, we ask your prayers that baby would come naturally before the 19th of March. Our doctor will not let her go beyond 39 weeks gestation because of the Thrombophilia and would do a medical induction at that point.



Please pray for our studies as we have had a slow start to the year after everyone’s vacation times and dealing with occasional illnesses. We will need to take a short break when the baby comes but will hopefully be able to resume them soon after. Unfortunately, we have only had a minimal amount of contact with Iraci the last several months, we do know that she has had to move again but she has not been willing to inform us as to where she is for us to be able to make a visit. We feel that she is embarrassed by her circumstances and struggles with the results of her past. Please pray that she will allow us to help her and meet her spiritual needs.

We were blessed to be able to host our Pastor and his wife for a visit earlier this month. They were here for just four days but it was a good time to be able to show them around the city and share with them our burden for the people of Teresina. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know them better as they came to the pastorate after we had already come to the field. We enjoyed introducing them to some Brazilian cuisine and of course, a good Brazilian churrasco(BBQ).



The boys are doing well and ask just about every day how much longer until baby sister arrives. They are very excited about baby sister and can't wait to meet her. Gabe is working hard to get his second grade school year done before she comes and Sam is having fun learning to write his letters. Recently, they saved up money in their coin banks and decided to share a milkshake on a family day out.



As I mentioned in our last letter, we are needing to make a furlough towards the end of this year. We would covet your prayers as we begin preparations and putting together a schedule. There are many aspects for which you can be praying for us, some of which are: documents for Baby once she is born, car and house stateside, new meetings, and the care of things here in Brasil while away.

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

**PRAYER PRAISES:**

Noel and Baby good health  
Pastor and Mrs. Alexander visit

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Joel's parents' travels  
Baby girl's birth  
Bible studies  
Furlough plans

Dear Pastors and supporters,

This is a special note to all our supporting pastors and personal supporters. First, I would like to say thank you for your faithful support of our family and ministry. Second, I would like to ask forgiveness for my lack of consistency in prayer letters. I have let other priorities take precedence over getting them written and I have promised to be more diligent in sending them out in a more timely manner. Third, it has been suggested that I consider creating a WhatsApp group for all our supporters who are willing to be a part of it, to be able to send out praises and prayer requests in a more immediate medium. If you would like to be a part of this group please email or message me your phone number. My email is [joelsmothers2013@gmail.com](mailto:joelsmothers2013@gmail.com) and my WhatsApp is +55 86 98115-8486. Fourth, I will be sending this letter by email and regular mail to ensure that everyone is receiving it. If you would rather one or the other, please let me know and I will ensure you receive it accordingly. Lastly, regarding our planned furlough, if you would like us to come and update your church please let me know your preference of service: missions conference, Sunday or Wednesday service. I cannot guarantee meeting everyone's exact date preference but I will try my best as I set up our schedule. I will send out more information as it becomes available. Once again thank you for all your prayers.

In Christ,  
Joel Smothers.

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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