



# The *Smothers* family

## Church planting in Teresina, Brasil

Joel, Samuel, Gabriel & Noel

Dear Prayer Partners,

July 14, 2025

Greetings from the hot side of Brasil! Our “spring” dissipated rather quickly and it has been relatively hot here, while other parts of the country have experienced unusually cold temperatures and down south where Noel’s family serve has been even colder. We had a very erratic and short rainy season, to which it is likely to be a very long and extra hot dry season.

The last couple of weeks of June, we experienced the differences of temperature for ourselves, as we were able to visit with Noel’s parents while her sister, Nikayla, was also there to keep her visa status up to date. When we left Teresina it was 97°F and when we arrived in Porto Alegre it was 51°F and it went as low as 40°F while we were there. We had a wonderful visit with family and friends and participated in many activities with the church. Joel had the privilege to preach one of the Thursday services and Noel sang in each of the Sunday services. We were all happy to return to the heat as it hit freezing the day we left.



Our studies have been going well and in March we were able to start a Sunday school time as everyone’s schedules changed to that being a possibility. We had seven Brazilians the first week but our normal is Junior, Mirele and Kelly. Noel was also able to start a new study with two young ladies she met at a clinic appointment she recently had. Heloísa grew up catholic but has quit going and is searching for clear truth. Nivea has attended various churches but is also searching for clarity and truth. We have had many others express interest in studies as we pass out tracts and John and Romans booklets but have yet to actually have anyone contact us about starting. Please pray for these that are studying and their need of salvation and for those who have received the Gospel to reach out to us and set up studies.

Noel was able to connect and study with Iraci again and we thank you all for your prayers for her, as she was able to find another job. Noel and the boys were also able to help her celebrate Helena’s third birthday. Please continue to pray for her spiritual growth and maturity.



As I mentioned earlier, Noel was able to find a doctor who did some extensive blood tests and revealed a number of issues that she has been dealing with. One of the most impactful issues was a major iron deficiency. She had to have five infusions of iron which is how she met Heloísa and Nivea. They were her attending nurses for the procedure. Noel has also been taking several different vitamins and supplements to correct some of the other issues found in the tests. She has a return visit this next week to





see how her levels are and if she needs to continue taking the supplements. We appreciate all of your prayers for her and are very thankful for God's provision to care for her health. She had been experiencing extreme fatigue and is feeling much better and more energetic since receiving the iron infusions. Please pray for a good report in her next visit.

The boys are doing great and growing up too fast! Sometimes it seems like they add inches overnight! They both had a great time visiting all the family except for the cold weather. Gabe has asked and asked about what it's like to live in cold climates thinking that he would like it better. That has changed! His first statement when landing back in Teresina was, "It's not cold anymore!" Sam was not a fan either saying multiple times "I'm freeeeezing!"



We would also covet your prayers for our car situation. The week before our trip it completely broke down on Joel one day while out doing errands and we got it back from the mechanic just before leaving. Unfortunately, on the way to the airport it started showing signs of even worse problems than before. Joel is limited to the amount of work he can do on it because of the lack of equipment and parts sourcing. We are not wanting to fault the mechanic but we are beginning to wonder about the validity of his work. While the car certainly has some age to it, it should have much more life to it. Please pray that God will give us wisdom to make the right decisions in getting it repaired and that we will have a working car soon.

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

**PRAYER PRAISES:**

Bible studies  
Iraci's job  
Trip to see family  
Noel's health improvement

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

More studies  
Noel's health  
Car problems

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

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

**Field Address:**  
Rua Major Sebastião Saraiva, 1308  
Bairro: Morada do Sol  
Teresina, Brasil 64056-530

