

# West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



November 1, 2024

I originally planned to share the incredible work God did during our missions trip to Nevis: how one school canceled classes and brought the entire student body to the church to hear the Gospel; how our evangelistic services saw outstanding attendance, with people coming forward for salvation; how at our youth rally the final night, we packed nearly 250 people into the church; and how we saw so many hands raised for salvation that we did not have workers to deal with them all. But there is no space.

I also wanted to tell you about Wilson Joseph, a pastor and new missionary we recently approved. He is a Grenadian national, whom God has called to be a missionary church planter in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. But we will have to come back to that at a later time.

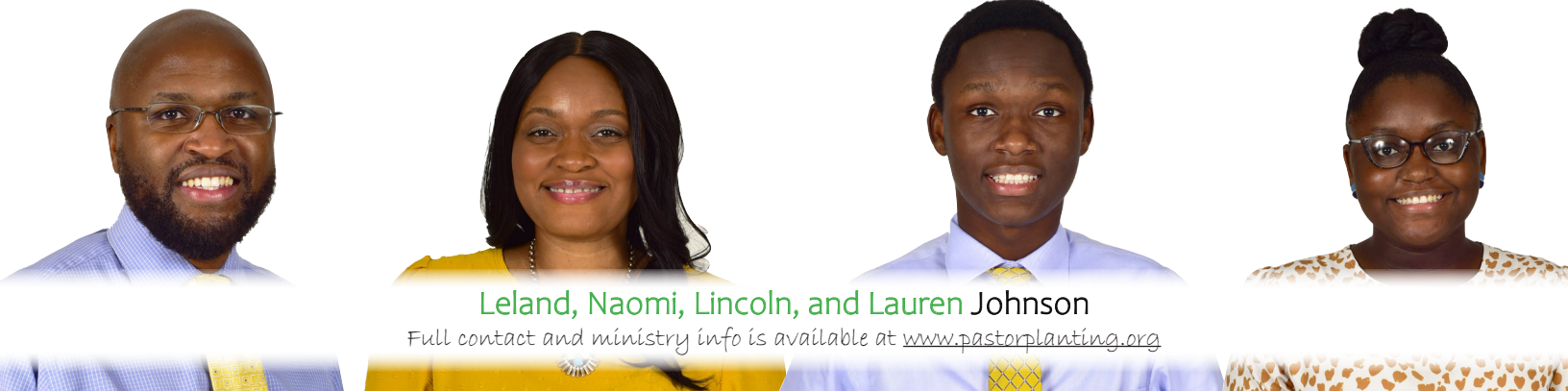


Instead, I must use this space to explain the emergency trip I recently had to take to Brazil. Some of you may recall a ridiculous lawsuit filed against us in 2018. A group of children playing in the street dislodged our gate while trying to retrieve a toy, causing it to fall and injure one of the boys. The boy's parents then sued us and the property owners for R\$300,000 (approximately \$60,000), falsely claiming that the boy was walking down the street with his mother when the gate suddenly fell on him all by itself.

The case had been delayed for years, but we received notice that the final hearing would take place on October 9, and all parties initially agreed to hold the hearing virtually. Then, four days before the hearing, we were notified that the judge had denied the virtual option, requiring all parties to appear in person. This required me to purchase last-minute tickets, cancel our upcoming meeting, drive back to Charlotte from a meeting in Chicago to catch a flight to Brazil. After nearly 22 hours of travel, I arrived at 3:00 AM and had to be in court by 8:00 AM.

But all that distance could not out distance God! The first "witness" for the parents did not appear, and their second—and only—"witness" testified, but instead of testifying against us, spoke the truth, which was in our favor. Our two witnesses also spoke truthfully, which confirmed what we said happened. In the end, the parents proposed a settlement of R\$20,000 (about \$4,000), which our lawyer refused, stating that it would not be right to pay for what was clearly a fabricated claim.

The case is now awaiting the judge's decision, expected by year-end. We have seen God's hand throughout, and we ask for your continued prayers that this matter would come to a just resolution. Out of space for now, Naomi is doing well. Thank you for your prayers



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson  
Full contact and ministry info is available at [www.pastorplanting.org](http://www.pastorplanting.org)