

NOVEMBER 2026

BEING PRESENT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Praises

- That God's people in Brazil have continued to send faithful people to enter and graduate from seminary with a calling to continue to serve God in ministry.
- That we have had the privilege to connect and reconnect with so many partners in person during home assignment.
- That God's grace is sufficient for any longing we may face as we live between two worlds.

Prayer

- For all our seminary graduates, that the next chapter of their ministries will be blessed as they proclaim the good news of God's kingdom in Brazil and Uruguay!
- For safety and energy during travels as we visit our ministry partners in North America.
- For discernment as Olivia looks into her college options for next academic year.

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you

not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8 (NIV)



At the Steer Hold the Rope Conference with some of our Steer partners.

We have now been back in North America for four months, and we feel the weight of what it is like to live between two worlds. No matter where we are, be it in Brazil or North America, we are far from people we love. But on the flipside, we are always close to people we love. Let us explain.

On the one hand, our hearts are sad to be missing important events in Brazil, such as graduations and weddings. Later this month, both our partner seminaries will hold graduations. The Porto Alegre seminary will hold its final graduation for its pastoral formation program, which will also feature our first Doctor of Ministry graduate.



Wearing traditional Gaúcho outfits at the Steer Hold the Rope Conference.



With our hosts in New York: NAB-appointed missionaries, the Bransfords.

The Esteio seminary will also hold their annual graduation, with a third of the class moving on to the ministries to which God has called them. For some, that will mean internships before planting churches in Brazil or Uruguay, and for others it will mean answering a ministry call to lead churches.

Graduation is always such a festive time to celebrate, and we wish we could be there to celebrate with them. Over the years, these graduates have become more than just students to us. We have gotten to know them, shared meals with them, had countless conversations about all sorts of things, prayed together, and watched them grow. These are the kinds of relationships that make it hard to be so far away during an important season like this.

On the other hand, we are so blessed to be present here in North America, spending time with those who have supported our ministry in Brazil. This has been a busy fall season, and so far we have had the privilege of connecting with 23 of our supporting churches. Sometimes, the travel itself can be tiring when it comes in bunches, but the destinations have always been sweet, being in the presence of so many faithful partners.

Some partners are familiar as we catch up with people we haven't seen in years, hearing about children who are now grown or finding out what has been happening in the lives of families and churches since our last visit. It is always a gift to be able to sit down together and pick up where we left off. Other visits bring us to new places and the privilege to meet partners in person for the first time. Our hearts to come alongside pastors of our supporting churches shines through easily during home assignment, as we love to hear their stories and pray with them for the work to which God has called them.

Through all this, we keep coming back to Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Paul didn't just share the gospel with people; he shared his life with them, which is such an important part of what it means to live out our faith. Following Jesus was never meant to be something we do on our own. We are called into relationships with one another, to encourage each other, carry one another's burdens, celebrate together, and walk through difficult seasons together. So much of our Christian life happens in these ordinary, everyday moments.



Monica's first day as a college student in Michigan.



Olivia's last first day of school.

When we think about our years in Brazil, and even this second home assignment in North America, we are reminded how much ministry is about doing life together. The hospitality we receive during our travels offers us many chances to do exactly that. As we visit churches, connecting and reconnecting with our partners, we are reminded how much we cherish these relationships and the history we share. We are grateful to be here, even while missing the people and moments we wish we could be part of in Brazil.

Maybe that is part of what makes living between two worlds so difficult. We can't always be where we want to be, and sometimes we feel the weight of that more than other times. But we are learning to appreciate the people God has placed in front of us in each season. Being away from Brazil doesn't mean those relationships matter any less, and being here gives us the opportunity to invest in relationships that are important to us as well.

As always, we can keep our eyes on Jesus, who lived between heaven and earth, longing for closeness with the Father while being fully present with all those to whom he ministered on earth. As his people, we all live between two worlds: longing for God's kingdom to come in full while being fully present in the here and now, carrying out the commission he gave us on earth.

As we move through this season, we are thankful for all the people God has placed in both worlds of our lives. We miss our friends and ministry partners in Brazil, and at the same time, we are grateful for the opportunity to connect and reconnect with so many of you in North America. As we look toward the spring, we are excited about the opportunities still ahead and the people we will have the chance to see along the way.

We know there will continue to be both joyful moments and some difficult goodbyes as we navigate life between Brazil and North America. In every church we visit, we invite our partners in North America to join us down in Brazil during our next term. It doesn't have to be a home assignment for us to be in the presence of one another again. Plus, beyond pictures and words, you can meet our students and the church planters in our network. You, too, just might get a taste of what it's like to live between two worlds, even if it's just for several days.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us, for your prayers, and for being part of this journey. We are grateful to share this life and ministry with you.

Brandon & Marci Jones

AVENIDA CRISTÓVÃO COLOMBO, 3452/201, PORTO ALEGRE, RS, 90520-322, BRASIL
BJONES@NABCONF.ORG | MJONES@NABCONF.ORG
NABONMISSION.ORG/MISSIONARIES/BRANDON-MARCI-JONES