



NORTHEASTERN
Brazil
Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

August 2, 2022

Thank you for your constant prayers for us. As mentioned in the last letter, we had come to the end of what the doctors could offer and were praying about next steps. After much prayer, we had decided to announce that we would be heading back to Brazil and start adjusting to life dealing with the current health issues until God sees fit to heal them. I had even sent an email out to a few pastors relating that fact and had planned to send out a letter to everyone on August 1st.

That was until last Thursday at 3:00 am.

I woke up and could not go back to sleep. I got up and did a few things and came back to bed around 3:30 am. When I got in the bed, I noticed that Naomi's leg was shaking every 30 seconds or so. I thought it was very strange and decided to Google it. An article came up about a condition called "sleep myoclonus" and I started reading about its causes. They explained that there are certain neurological conditions that can be the cause, but none of them really fitted her symptoms. But then I saw the last one and it confused me: Coronavirus-19 (Covid19 long covid). I wondered how COVID-19 could be related and clicked to read. I was amazed to find out that COVID-19 has been linked to a handful of neurological disorders in about 2 out of 100,000 people who have been infected. It linked from there to a study of a man who had had COVID-19, and a few months later started developing pain in his hands that travelled to his shoulder and then his legs, similar to Naomi's experience. He had EEGs, CT scans, EKGs, MRIs, and blood tests that all came back normal, the same as Naomi's tests. His pain level was consistently 7/10 and it was unaffected by the prescribed neurological medications—again, just like Naomi. It said that they tried a particular treatment and within a few weeks his pain level diminished to 2/10. It also mentioned 11 other patients that had developed neurological disorders as a result of Covid and the steps that they had been through to treat them. About 52% of the patients that had long Covid-related neurological issues reported improvement.

If you remember, Naomi went to the hospital on 12/25/20, Christmas day, with a fever and chills and was diagnosed with COVID-19; recovering about mid-January. She first went to the doctor about the problems that we have been dealing with in May of 2021. By now it was about 4:45 am and I woke Naomi. The first thing that I asked was, "When exactly did you first start to notice the problems with your hands?" She said, "About the end of February..."—about six weeks after she had recovered from COVID-19. We are certain that God has given us the answer to what is causing Naomi's issues!

First thing Thursday morning, we sent all of the information that we had over to her doctor and asked about the medication. He set up an appointment for yesterday (Monday) afternoon. In the appointment, we talked about the medical reports and the medication. He agreed that we should try the medication! This morning, Naomi took the first dose! Please pray fervently that Naomi's body will respond to this medication. This causes a little bit of a delay in our plans to return to Brazil at the end of the month, but we are now believing that God could allow Naomi to return back to Brazil either much improved or completely healed!

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