



January 2023

Dear praying friends,

We appreciate your continued prayer for our family over the past few months. We are still getting our feet under us a little in our new location. We arrived back in the capitol city of Praia the beginning of December. We had just a few days to wrap up a few loose ends there and then we made the move to the Island of São Vicente. Tina and the kids went by plane and I came a few days later with our car by boat... a 28 hour trip that I don't care to repeat...Ha! We greatly miss our friends back in Praia. We are grateful for the time we were able to serve along with our friends there, and we continue praying for God's work there to advance.

### Church and ministry

The church here in Mindelo has suffered several setbacks over the past few years. With the very strict covid restrictions and then the sickness and passing of Bro. Decarvalho the church has dwindled greatly. We praise the Lord for the faithfulness of the few that are still here. Pray for us that God would do a work in the hearts of those who have given in to the discouragement of the past few years.

A word I love to use to describe ministry is the word "intention". Reactionary busyness is a poor substitute for intentionality in ministry. I believe the biblical concept of "Redeeming the time" speaks to this. Pray with us that God would give us wisdom in applying these principles. We have no desire to just go through the motions, but we want to make steps forward at every opportunity.

We have simplified a few things on the church schedule, eliminating (at least for a little time) the Sunday afternoon service. This time is now dedicated to visiting and outreach. I have begun a series of Sunday school lessons and plan to take about six months to chronologically hit the highlights through scripture making the connection to Christ throughout the story of scripture. In the Sunday preaching hour I have begun a series going through John 13-17 focusing on the relationship that God desires with His people. We gather every Wednesday night for a short Bible study and prayer meeting as well.

### Settling in and new challenges

Settling into a new place is a little complicated. Lord willing, our family will be in our own rented house by the beginning of February. Pray for us as we continue to make all the transitions to life in a new place.

Our new home, the city of Mindelo, is world-renown as a party destination. The carnal celebration of "Carnaval" (Mardi Gras) is sort-of the highlight of the year. Because of Covid restrictions, the celebration has been very small the last few years...this year, however, they are pulling out all the stops. As foreigners living in a different culture, I generally try to see cultural things in the best light possible... that being said, I have not yet found any good thing to say about the debauchery of "Carnaval". Pray with us that the light of the Gospel will pierce the spiritual darkness in this city.

He is Worthy!

The Fritz family

[nathanfritz84@gmail.com](mailto:nathanfritz84@gmail.com)

**Pray with us for the health and growth of the Mindelo Baptist Temple.**

I shared the following requests with our church people in one of the first midweek prayer meetings we had with the folks here, perhaps you can pray with us:

- Pray that we would be faithful to the Word of God in our preaching and teaching
- Pray for a good testimony in our neighborhood - that we can reach those in our immediate neighborhood.
- Pray for close fellowship and encouragement within the church.
- Pray for us to live authentic, sincere and honest Christian lives.
- Pray for opportunities for evangelism and discipleship.

I am particularly burdened with reaching the neighborhood around our church's location. Mindelo is a big city, but people live most of life within their neighborhoods. We want to have a strong footprint in our zone of "Horta Seca" and the zones near us.