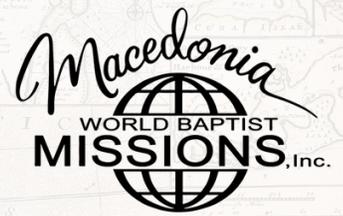


# West Indies Field Director & Deputation Director



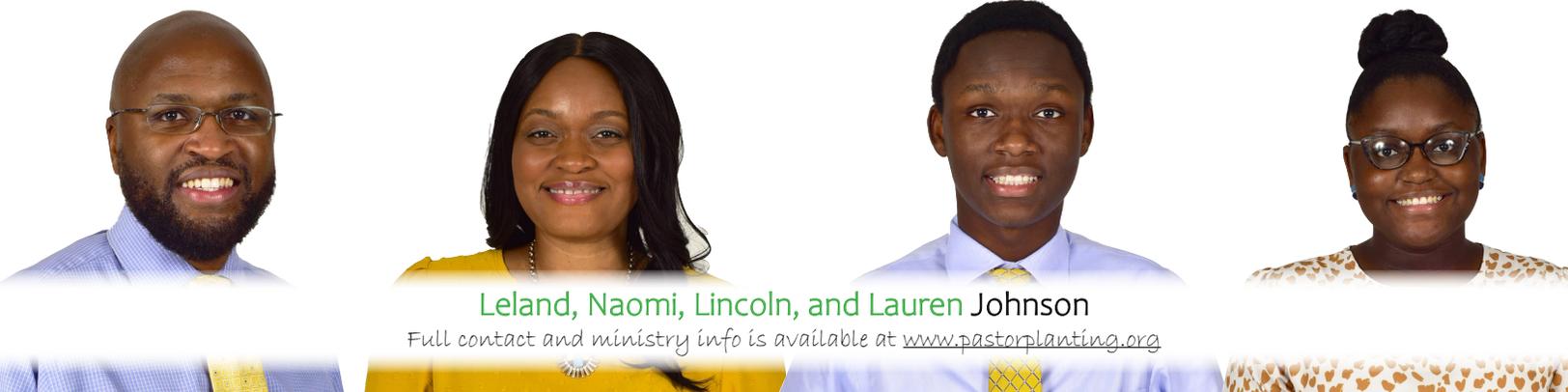
January 30, 2024

We are currently at a meeting in Atlanta where I am preaching. At this meeting, we have experienced a very sad ministry first. This past weekend, we dropped Lincoln off for his first semester at Pensacola Christian College. This meeting is the first time that we have participated in a meeting as a family without Lincoln. It was strange not to have him there, as he has been an integral part of our missions ministry for the past 10 years. However, we are excited about what God is doing in his life and this new chapter for him.

Since the last update, I had the chance to travel to Bequia to visit David Ballinger, one of our Macedonia missionaries, and his family. I was able to spend 5 days with them, learning about the island where they are serving. One of my goals on the trip was to understand the spiritual climate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines better. While David and I were out, we struck up spiritual conversations with many different people we met. My main focus was to ask them, "How do you believe that you get to heaven?" and then to move from there. Of the conversations that we had, the only person who answered that it was "by placing her faith in Jesus Christ" was a lady who said that she is a Seventh Day Adventist (which is not something that Seventh Day Adventists actually teach). Everyone else we talked to said that they were saved through their good works and being a good person. While we were able to present the Gospel several times, we were not able to see anyone place their faith in Jesus Christ. Amazingly enough, according to their census, 81% of the people identify themselves as Christian.

One of my other goals was to assess the need for more missionaries/churches on the islands. Of the four major islands that make up St. Vincent and the Grenadines, only the main island of St. Vincent has a decent, but undersized, presence of good, Bible-preaching churches (about 10 among a population of almost 85,000 people). On Bequia, where Bro. Ballinger is, there is only him and one other man, who is actually a missionary/church planter from Trinidad. The islands of Canouan and Union, where Bro. Ballinger has a heart to reach, have about 5,000 people living on them. Yet, he has been told by national pastors in St. Vincent that they are too small to need a church... even though the Adventists and Pentecostals have churches there. There is a desperate need for men who have a heart for reaching souls to respond to the call of God to plant churches on these islands.

Also, please be in prayer for Naomi as she has an appointment with a new neurologist this week. Please pray for me as I will be visiting another one of our missionaries before our next update. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers!



Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

Full contact and ministry info is available at [www.pastorplanting.org](http://www.pastorplanting.org)