

# Jonata & Karlene OLIVEIRA

Church-Planting Missionaries in Brazil  
Returning to the Paraíba Valley



Serving faithfully  
until all of Brazil knows!



*Dear Pastor*

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Thank you for taking  
the time to read our  
story. We are excited  
about fulfilling God's  
call for our lives among  
the people of Brazil.



# Personal Testimonies

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## Jonata

At the age of 15, I started attending a Baptist church close to my home. Five months later on January 1, 2016, I understood that God's plan of salvation is through Jesus Christ, Who shed His blood to save me from eternal damnation. At the end of that year, the Holy Spirit led me and some good friends to join New Life Baptist Church in another part of town. In January of 2018 when our church started a Bible institute, I eagerly enrolled. During that first year, the Lord began to show me that He wanted me in the ministry. However, it was not until my second year that I surrendered to His leading to be a missionary. Four years later, by the grace of God, I finished my training. Karlene and I were married on November 25, 2023, and I was ordained on February 24, 2024.

## Karlene

I am the daughter of David and Dawn Whitmore, missionaries in Brazil since 2004. I grew up in church and was always involved in the ministries of the church, but at the age of 15, I realized that I had not yet placed my complete faith in Christ to save me. On August 29, 2017, I gave my life to Christ and continued to serve Him, but with more joy, fervor, and peace in my heart. After attending Bible college in the U.S. from 2019 until 2022, I realized that it was God's will for me to return to Brazil. Now I am serving with my husband, and I am very excited to see what God will continue to do in and through our lives and ministry.

# Our Plans

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- **Starting Bible-Believing Churches**
- **Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Soul Winning**
- **Discipling New Converts**
- **Training National Leaders**
- **Serving Pastors, Missionaries, & Churches**

The focus of our ministry will be twofold: church planting and assisting pastors, missionaries, and churches. From 2022 until 2025, we had the opportunity to assist in the planting of Victory Baptist Church in Pindamonhangaba, a neighboring city of Taubaté, São Paulo, under the leadership of Missionary Keith Putnam. Our plan is to return to the Paraíba Valley, which consists of 39 cities and a population of 2.59 million people. This region desperately needs the light of Christ and Bible-preaching churches to guide them to the truth.

We are committed to pleasing God and staying true to His calling for our family. We need His power more than anything else. As we visit churches to raise our needed financial support, would you pray with us to see souls saved, to be a blessing to those God allows us to meet, and that more laborers would join in His harvest.



# Beliefs

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We believe in **Biblical authority**. We believe in **local-church autonomy**. We believe that God is **one God with three distinct persons**: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. We believe He is eternal and that He created the world in six literal days. Because of man's sin, He sent His Son Jesus to earth. Living a perfect life, He gave His life willingly on the Cross to pay for the sins of all men for all time. **Only by putting our faith in His death, burial, and resurrection can we have the secure hope of eternal life.** Once born again, the Bible commands that we should be baptized by immersion and become a part of a local assembly of called-out believers – the church. As a church, we are distinctly and historically Baptist. We are to follow God's Word in all matters of faith and practice. **We believe that God has preserved His Word through the King James Version in the English language.** Living a life for Christ is not easy, but it is God Who gives the desire and strength to be holy and set apart from the world so that the love of Christ and His glory can shine through us. We are to be engaged in actively **sharing the Gospel with everyone.** Because we believe in the imminent return of Christ, we must do our part to fulfill the Great Commission. Our purpose on earth is to tell others about the great love that only Jesus gives.

1) I Timothy 2:5; 2) Isaiah 40:28, Matthew 16:16-17; 3) John 20:31, Acts 5:3-4; 4) John 16:7-15, Psalm 12:6; 5) II Timothy 3:16, Genesis 1:1; 6) John 1:1-14, Ezekiel 28:15; 7) Isaiah 14:13-14, Genesis 1:26; 8) Genesis 2:7, Romans 5:12; 9) Jeremiah 17:9, John 3:16; 10) II Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 5:9; 11) John 6:37, II Corinthians 6:14-18; 12) I Corinthians 5:9-13, Matthew 16:18; 13) Ephesians 5:23, Matthew 28:18-20; 14) Mark 16:15, Matthew 3:15; 15) Romans 6:3-10, Matthew 26:26-28; 16) I Corinthians 11:26, Acts 1:11.

# About Brazil

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Brazil, known for many things, is very dear to both Karlene and me because it is our home. I was born and raised there, and she has spent most of her life there with her family. As a country, Brazil is very rich with natural resources and a loving and friendly people. It is also a land of great opportunity. Though idolatry, sin, confusion, and darkness cover Brazil, many people are hungering and searching for truth. The majority are more confused than ever about what is truth. Pray with us that as we faithfully serve our Saviour, my family will understand their need to trust Christ.

Brazil covers half of South America and is the fifth-largest country in the world. It is larger than the 48 contiguous United States. Its population is diverse and exceeds 210 million. There are over 5,570 cities in Brazil, and 15 of those cities have a population of over 1 million. Just the city of São Paulo alone is larger than over 120 different countries in the world!



# Recommendation

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Dear Pastor,

It is with great joy and confidence that I recommend Jonata and Karlene Oliveira for your support. I have had the privilege of serving alongside this faithful couple over the past three years, and I am thrilled about the next steps the Lord has for them here in Brazil.

God has clearly given them a heart for reaching their own people. Their readiness for the work is undeniable: as Brazilian citizens, they are uniquely positioned to minister effectively regardless of the shifting political climate. They already speak the language, they are culturally acclimated, and they are serving in their homeland. There is no adjustment period—they're ready to get back and carry on their proven ministry.

Jonata and Karlene have been involved in the ministry of Victory Baptist Church since before its inception. Jonata is a dedicated soul-winner, grounded in sound doctrine, and has a good personal testimony. Karlene, having grown up here in Brazil, will doubtless continue to be a tremendous support to Jonata and to the work of the ministry.

Their vision is simple: return and continue to reach the lost, baptize and disciple the believer, and plant more independent, fundamental Baptist churches. They are committed to serving the Lord faithfully and bearing fruit that remains.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this couple. While prayer is the key, your financial support is also vital. Your partnership with them will produce eternal fruit to your account and His glory.

All for Christ,

Keith Putnam

Missionary, Victory Baptist Church Pindamonhangaba, Brazil

# Recommendation

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Dear Pastor,

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I would like to recommend to you Jonata and Karlene Oliviera as your missionaries to Brazil. Jonata was reached through our ministry over eight years ago as a teenager. He was called to the ministry shortly thereafter. He enrolled in our Bible institute and graduated with a four-year degree in 2021. He then proceeded to help in a church-plant in the neighboring city of Pinda. In 2023, he married Karlene - fellow Team Brazil missionary, Dave Whitmore's daughter.

I have known Karlene since she was a young girl. She was saved and baptized in our ministry and grew up to become a fine young lady with a love for the Lord and a desire to serve Him, others and to do His will.

Jonata and Karlene are a well-balanced, faithful couple. They love and fear the Lord with all their hearts and are very hard workers. They have already done a great work for God in Pindamonhangaba, Brazil. I have no doubt in my mind that they will continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully and fruitfully as a missionary with Team Brazil.

I highly recommend them and trust you will consider them seriously in prayer for support. They are an excellent investment of your mission's dollars! If you have any questions about this couple, please do not hesitate to contact me at (219) 333-4884.

In the service of the King,  
Missionary Ed Johnson

Church-planting in Brazil since 2008 and Team Brazil Leader



# Recommendation

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The first time that our family met Jonata was during the midweek service on Wednesday, December 28, 2016. A friend of his, Diego, had visited our church the previous Sunday evening, Christmas day, and went back and invited his friends to visit with him that following Wednesday.

In January 2017, I asked Jonata if I could begin discipleship with him because I was curious to know why a young man was so committed to God and to church even though no one else in his family (was) were saved. I'll never forget that our first discipleship lesson was spent cleaning the water tank in the attic of our house.

He was very faithful to arrive for discipleship even though he lived 20 minutes away by bicycle. As the weeks went by he remained faithful to all the church services and the soul winning and teen meetings on Saturdays.

After he decided to enroll in the church's four year Bible institute in January 2018, I asked Bro. Ed Johnson, the lead pastor, if Jonata could help me coordinate the distribution of the BEAMS Bibles here in Brazil to help pay for his classes. Weekly, he would come to our home for four to six hours. Little did I know what God had in store for our future. Besides having the ability to organize, he also has a great heart for the work of the Lord. When he started helping there were under 100 pastors and missionaries here in Brazil receiving the BEAMS Bibles on a quarterly basis. During those first four years he worked alongside of me, we added another 100 pastors. One day near the end of his time in the Bible institute, Jonata looked at me and said, "I believe that God wants me to spend the rest of my life serving God with you in this ministry."

From there we discussed the need to start the G.A.N.H.A.R. (Soul Winning) Ministry. In January 2022 Dawn + I, along with Zachary and Jonata, spent

28 days on our first ministry trip to six different churches. We drove 61 hours and over 2600 miles to go soul winning and encourage the pastors and members in those churches. Presently we serve over 400 pastors and missionaries throughout Brazil by making available John & Romans, gospel tracts, which include some for children, soft cover Bibles, and the coordinating of the BEAMS Bibles. We are also honored to spend time with individual pastors and churches upon request to help them for 5 to 10 days to teach and preach on soul winning and then we visit people with the pastor and people. We have seen many a divine appointment.

From the very beginning Karlene and Jonata began to take an interest in each other. Even though they went almost three years without seeing each other while we were in the US for a year and Karlene attended Hyles-Anderson College for two years, God kept them for each other.

During the past nearly nine years, I have learned much from a young man that called me, Dad, and now father-in-law.

I whole heartily recommend that you schedule a meeting with Jonata and our daughter, Karlene. They are a godly couple that live their lives serving others.

For the PEOPLE of Brazil,  
Missionary David Whitmore  
Magicjack number: (574) 307-0750  
Email: david.whitmore@fbmi.org



*"For we preach not ourselves,  
but Christ Jesus the Lord;  
and ourselves your servants  
for Jesus' sake."*

II Corinthians 4:5



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**Sending Church:**

Pastor Ed Johnson New  
Life Baptist Church  
Taubaté, São Paulo

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Missionary #6811



**Birthdays:**

Jonata 2/15  
Karlene 9/26

**Anniversary:**  
11/25