

THE DICKENS FAMILY TO BRAZIL

April 2004

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Dear Praying Saints,

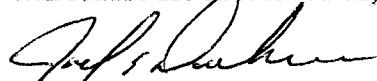
These past couple of months have been quite eventful. Our travels continue and God, as always, is gracious. We are glad to report that our home church has called a new pastor Daniel Crisman, and we are glad for his arrival. God has given us more supporting churches and we are excited to announce that we are going to add to our own mission family. We found out in February that we will be having our third child! This will delay our departure due to Cynthia's health needs in child birth and the inadequate facilities in the part of Brazil that we will be ministering. We are continuing to conduct meetings and will hopefully start some language training to prepare ourselves for departure. During our past meetings we have met several missionaries to or from Brazil who have offered to conduct some language studies with us while we are continuing deputation. Cynthia is due in October and we will plan to depart after that. If any of you have any specific questions about this delay, please, feel free to contact us. We will be happy to talk with you.

We recently spoke to Bro. Nash and he gave us information about a new language school close to the work in Caruaru that we can enroll in any time. Praise the Lord that in the past few weeks we have had the privilege to see a young adult and a boy trust Christ as Savior. We praise God for those of you who have faithfully prayed for us and supported us. The boys health has improved, and they are just as rambunctious as ever. Their improved health has also increased their vigor in the area of their wills, and as we travel we have to be continually vigilant about their training (obedience, potty training for Morgan, etc.)

I was reading in II Peter recently where Peter tells the saints, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." Whether it is training our children, reading and obeying God's Word, or having a concern about the lost souls of people all around us and across the globe, it is important that we are constantly reminded of the critical hour in which we live. We praise God that we have you all holding the ropes as we prepare to go to the field. Thank you!

Please pray for Cynthia and her health with this pregnancy. Pray for our traveling mercies. Pray for God's leadership in our meetings and added support. Pray for souls and pray for the harvest. We need more laborers! God bless each of you and thank you for holding the ropes.

...Because He first loved us,


Joel Dickens

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer support