



Dickens Family To Brazil

August 2004

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Dear Praying Saints,

I have been thinking about a recent phone conversation that I had with Bro. Nash about the ministries in Brazil and all that is going on down there. I was so excited when I got off the phone because of the great things God is doing and the doors of ministry that He is opening for us to be involved in when we get to the field in January. However I have to stop and remind myself that there is a ministry here in the states that I am involved in that in the eyes of God is just as important. Our hearts are still burdened and our eyes are still fixed on the goal of getting to Brazil, but I cannot overlook the deputation ministry that God has called us to as we prepare. Since God works through the local church we also cannot forget that we are sent out of one, call one home, and are accountable to that church. We cannot and do not cease to pray for and help Roanoke Island Baptist Church as we endeavor to garner prayer and financial supporters. Deputation is a ministry if I forget that I will soon find myself discouraged.

We have had opportunities to have our spiritual batteries charged while our physical batteries were drained at Family Fellowship week. Grace Baptist in Wilmington, NC, hosted the conference and they did a marvelous job. We traveled as far as the great Midwest and got to know the wonderful folks of First Baptist Church of Laurel, Indiana, we were as close to home as Emmaus Road Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA. We were privileged to be involved with VBS at home and saw several children get saved and Cynthia has had the privilege to lead a lady to the Lord during invitation and a young teenage girl during teen time. God has increased our support to 86% and added prayer partners above and beyond that. We are constantly thrilled in seeing God transform lives for His glory and move us closer to the field of service that He has called us to.

If you have not checked it out, we have added a website through our internet provider. You can watch our progress, get a better idea of some of our needs and see some pictures at home.earthlink.net/~obxmissionaries. Please pray as I begin traveling solo since the doctors have given the "Cynthia no travel" warning. She is doing fine with the pregnancy and all looks well with her and the baby. Since some of you have asked regarding needs for the new baby, we have few needs specifically for the baby (other than a few items of clothing for a girl). A better gift for us and our children at this time would be funds to go toward some mother/baby related needs and two airline approved seats for Aydan and the new baby. Pray for our ability to get our paperwork done for leaving in January. Praise God Morgan has become a potty all-star! It's amazing what things excite parents of toddlers. We love and appreciate all of you and your prayers and support. Feel free to let us know how your churches are doing so we can pray for you more effectively. God continues to use you to bless our lives.

...Because He first loved us,


Joel and Cynthia Dickens and the little Dickens

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer support

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