



# Dickens Family In Brazil

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Dear Praying Saints,

Saturday evening in a neighboring city I had the privilege to meet Adenilson. When we first met this 18 year old man he was holding one of his twin daughters. We were visiting a lady next door and I was called out of the house to move my car. To my surprise, Adenilson was standing outside and after moving my car he still stood there like he was waiting for something. We began to converse in my limited capacity, but I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to do more than just practice Portuguese. God gave me the opportunity to clearly explain the gospel to this young man as best I could, and he listened intently. When we finished, I was unsure that he was ready to make a decision as he is Catholic and that was the first time he had heard this. He asked for more and wants to hear and start coming to the service that Bro. Nash is beginning to hold each week in this neighboring city. Please pray for Adenilson. The "gift" of Romans 6:23 is just exactly what we have the privilege to share with lost sinners all over the world.

Luke 17:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." What a privilege and responsibility we have to share the gift of eternal life in this Christmas season. We were reflecting last week during our own little "Thanksgiving" about all that God has done over this past year. We have the greatest group of supporting churches and friends, we are progressing in the language, God has given us another child who at this point the doctors have assured us will be a girl, Cynthia is healthy and doing the best of the pregnancies she has had, and the kids are all growing and learning. We have been spared health problems and we are excited at the prospects of understanding more Portuguese. I received a special gift this past month for which our whole family is thankful for "liberty." Last month we finally got all the things done for my drivers license here so now we have "liberty." It is so refreshing to be able to run to the store when Cynthia needs something and not have to take a bus or feel like we are inconveniencing anyone. I never like being away from family at Christmas, but God has been so wonderful and powerful on our behalf and being here in the center of His will I know this Christmas will be one of the best we have ever had. Many of you have sent gifts and cards and we appreciate each immensely. This morning I was pleasantly surprised to find a care package from Community Baptist in Elberon, VA.

It will be our privilege this year to sing in a Portuguese Christmas cantata and we are moving here in a few weeks to a larger house. Our goal is to be set up in the house in time to celebrate Christmas there. We also will be taking a little time off this next month from formal language studies as one of our teachers is set to move. We will resume in January and Lord willing continue until at least April. Certainly the birth of our fourth child will weigh into this scenario, but we continue to watch in awe as the hand of God moves in this our first year on the field.

We are praying for a blessed Christmas of happiness and joy for each of our churches, families, and friends; and we pray God gives each of us a deeper understanding of the "gift" of salvation that was wrapped in swaddling clothes that night in Bethlehem.

... Because He first loved us,

*Joel Dickens*  
Psalm 33:11

**Prayer Requests**

- Souls to be saved here in Caruaru
- Setting up new house by Christmas and provision for furniture
- Health and safety for Cynthia and the baby
- Doctor's wisdom as they treat Cynthia and help here with her diabetes and the pump
- Language school