



Dickens Family In Brazil

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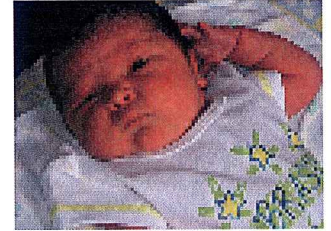
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Dear Praying Saints,

Psalm 118:23 "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." Two weeks ago the Lord gave us this verse the night that he added our newest child to our family. Little did I know how He would use that verse as now it appears this year will be one of growth, change, and learning in our family and ministry. Abigail Marsha was born January 27th (little turkey would not wait three days for my birthday), and weighed 3.5 kilos and was 49 cm long. I am 'forced' to put the figures in metric because she is Brazilian. Of course she gets to leave and enter both countries with only a passport. She is doing well and growing and Cynthia is recovering from the surgery without problems. That was the first big change, though anticipated.



The Lord closed the door on the house we had planned to move into. The owner chose to deal deceitfully with us and the Lord revealed it to us before any contracts were signed, so we are still looking for another house. We desperately need more space as the family is growing, but at an affordable rate. The housing prices here are rising and the dollar is falling, which begins to tighten things considerably. Please be in prayer for this as well. Once again, Psalm 118:23.

The next big change comes with concern in our hearts. Bro. Nash, the veteran missionary we have been learning with, went to the hospital last weekend with chest pain. He has had it for some time, and stress was both his and our thoughts concerning the cause of it. After tests it has been determined that he has several blockages and will need surgery to correct it. Our prayer is for his health and safety, and wisdom in upcoming decisions concerning the ministry. Now for the next two months at least, I will be in charge of the ministry here in Caruaru as he has surgery and recovers. Our language skills are not adequate to our desire, but once again Psalm 118:23. One thing I learned long ago from my father was that God allows you to see a need many times because He intends for you to meet it. We will be under some extreme pressure these next several months with the burden of this ministry and needing to continue language training as well as beginning to teach the children. We have no doubt we will be in your prayers.

I will not lie and say that we are not scared, but I know God has some great things in store for this coming year and souls in this city that need to be saved. We will have the opportunity to use what we have learned and to allow God to work through our lives to bring the Gospel to the people of Brazil. Verse 24 of Psalm 118 says, "This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." We are rejoicing. God has given us a new beautiful baby girl to add to our collection of gifts on loan from God to rear for His glory. We have the opportunity to get our feet wet in field ministry while we pray for His leading in permanent location here in the northeast of Brazil. We have supporting churches and friends who have showered us with love, prayers, and financial gifts more than we could imagine. We have a God on the throne in control, leading us in every decision and path. Please pray. God bless your ministries. Please keep sending letters—we love hearing from you.

... Because He first loved us,

Joel Dickens

Ps. 33:11

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support

Prayer Requests

- Souls to be saved here in Caruaru
- Finding a larger house affordably
- Cynthia's recovery
- The ministry changes
- Language school
- Bro. Nash—heart surgery