



Dickens Family

In
Brazil

May 2006

Dear Praying Saints,

I made up my mind today that from now on we will be sending out our prayer letter once a month. I believe Psalm 118:23 "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes," will be our family verse for this coming year. So much has happened since February that there is no way to be able to fit it in one letter, so from now on we will be sending this along once a month.

We are in a new house. The Lord opened the door to the house He had initially closed the door on. December just was not the Lord's time frame for us to move so we waited, the owner brought the rent back down and we moved in in March. It is beautiful with plenty of space for us and the kids, and we are closer to the church here in Caruaru which is nice, but leads me to the next big event.

Due to the need, Bro. Nash's health, and a desire to plant churches here in the Northeast, we have decided to take on the work in Belo Jardim. The building is in a great location and we already have many prospects. A young man from the church here, Marcelio, and I worked for about two weeks getting the building prepared and we held the first service Saturday, May 5. There were about 40 in attendance with the majority being a group from the church here. Sunday we had my family and three other people, but I was excited we had anyone. After the service a man came to me wanting to know what to do with his tithe and offering. I am not sure the man is saved yet, so we need to get the first thing first, but there is interest. Adenilson is still on my heart and he is now married to the mother of his children. He has promised to visit the services and is interested in Bible study at his house. Now there are only 48 more cities to reach. Please pray for laborers. Bro. Nash is recovering from heart surgery very well and has resumed leadership of the church here in Caruaru. I am still working with the young people for the time being, but God has begun to work in the hearts of others in the area of the youth and that is good to see.

Our family is adapting well. Abigail is growing more each day and sleeping through the night which always helps. Cynthia has begun home schooling Morgan and he can say most all his blend ladders (those of you who teach ABEKA know what this is). Aydan is actually picking up as much as Morgan and likes to give his older brother the answers when Morgan gets stumped. Morgan's reply, "You are only three; this is my school." Daniella has us stumped. She is speaking some language we cannot understand. It is not Portuguese and not English. We wonder if she has not picked up some Polynesian somewhere? Maybe you can help. Cynthia is adapting well to another child and I am busy trying to be dad, missionary, pastor, and most importantly child of God. I want to close by thanking each of you for your prayers and love for our family and ministry. This year will be one of great growth and we are excited to see how God will prove Himself faithful as He always is. I want to ask for special prayer for the dollar. It has lost nearly 20% of its value here and will certainly tighten things this year. Pray for the perfect will of the Lord in this and all other aspects of our ministry.

...Because He first loved us,

Joel Dickens

Ps. 118:23

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer support

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Prayer Requests

- The work in Belo Jardim – souls, etc.
- School books for the children
- Language studies
- A clothes dryer for Cynthia
- Young men to surrender for the ministry