



# Dickens Family

To  
Brazil

September 2006

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Dear Praying Saints,

Ecclesiastes 1:9 "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

I am sure that there is not a pastor or church planter that cannot share stories of funny things happening in the first months of a new church. All can speak of tears being shed and frustration in trying to reach souls for Christ and then rejoicing greatly in the Lord after the first one sees the light of the gospel and places their full faith and trust in Christ.

After starting in May and preaching, witnessing, visiting, teaching, and praying, last month we saw three people come to trust Christ as their Savior. It started with Elizangela who spoke with me after the service one Sunday. Then Maria the following week as we were visiting in the houses of those who have been attending, and finally Silvio (Elizangela's husband) spoke with me one evening as we made visits. Praise the Lord! We now have three newly saved people to disciple and as many as six or eight that we need to take through the discipleship material that we are using and bring them to the point where they can be baptized. You can be praying for these dear souls as there are other problems in their lives that we will need to deal with as we prepare them for baptism. Our hearts rejoice in seeing the Lord begin to bring Brazilians to Himself.

This past Saturday, I was in a conference here in Caruaru when I received a phone call from one of the dear ladies who is attending the church. She had gone to the building to clean and when she entered there was no energy. Our building is the bottom floor of a two story with an apartment above us. The man who lives upstairs receives all the energy bills. I pay him for our part of the energy usage and he is supposed to pay the bills. Apparently he had not done that and we were without energy. Now it is the weekend and impossible to get the energy company to do anything on the weekend so now what do we do. After some quick phone calls we brought our folks to Caruaru for the Sunday service of the conference. They all enjoyed it and came to our house after for coffee and cookies. Now upon entering the house one of our dear ladies lost her mind. We found out she is deathly afraid of a miniscule frog that inhabits the walls around our house. Upon seeing three of the little things she went nuts. We had to physically bring her into the house because I could not leave her outside of the wall in the dark and the rest of our folks were already in the house. We all laughed later. At least this is not a spiritual problem.

Cynthia now has her dryer and is praising the Lord for little luxuries. The children are all doing well and we have finally discovered that Daniella actually does speak a language – a rare mix of English and Portuguese. Everyone thinks Abigail is just the best thing since sliced bread. Morgan continues to excel in his schoolwork and Aydan continues to amaze us with his ability to give his brother the answers. We appreciate your prayers for us as we continue with the new work. I am now teaching in the Bible Institute one night a week here and taking a course as well. In all these things God remains faithful and we continue to rejoice in His eternal mercy and grace. Please be in prayer for a house full of young men that have given me entrance once a week to come in and teach the Bible. I am praying that they may trust Christ as their Savior and who knows they might just turn Brazil right-side up (Acts 17:6). God bless each of you and we thank you for all your prayers, love, notes, gifts and faithful support.

...Because He first loved us,

*Joel E. Dickens*

Ps. 118:23

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer support