

Dickens Family

To Brazil

October 2007

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Dear Praying Saints,

Yesterday I was reminded vividly by our great and powerful Savior how His protection and power are so evident in our lives. We travel several times a week to the city in which we are planting the church. On my way yesterday, I came across a traffic accident. It appeared to involve three tractor-trailers and a small sedan. From what I could tell, one of the trucks tried to pass another going uphill and the sedan crested the opposite hill coming down. Yes, the car ended up at the bottom of the hill upside down and completely destroyed. During my visits, I discovered that the mother of one of our people knew the family in the accident. The entire family went into eternity, a man, his wife, and a young girl. On my return trip, as I crested a hill, I saw headlights in my lane. Yes, a tractor-trailer passing another going uphill. The Lord protected, I saw it in time, and he made it back into the lane before we met. Later down the road, two trucks passing in the opposite direction flashed their lights at me in essence warning, "something in the road up ahead!" Sure enough as I rounded a curve, I passed the most dangerous weapon on a Brazilian highway, a stray cow! I was listening to a piece of music based on the verse above. I thanked God for His protection and His protection of our family. Thank you for your constant prayers on our behalf.

Speaking of prayer, I was reminded recently by the Lord about how needed prayer is in my own life. With great joy, I can announce that after working and evangelizing, Clénio and his brother Alcemir trusted Christ as their Savior last week. Neide, Clénio's wife, is close. I had been praying for God to work, and in the work had forgotten to pray. Our people began asking about prayer, and the Lord laid on my heart the need to teach our people about prayer, but I recognized that I was lacking in that area myself. After praying specifically for Clénio for a week, I went to visit him and the night that I got there Satan tried to do everything to keep me from the visit. My car overheated, another person called needing an emergency visit, and after the visit the car overheated again. I prayed for the Lord to allow me to make it to Clénio's house. When I got there I understood why I was having the problems that night, Clénio was ready to trust Christ! What made the night even better was when I got home. The kids were all in bed, but Cynthia got Morgan out of bed to come talk to me. She had not told him anything, but she told him to ask me about my visits. I told him that Clénio had trusted Christ as his Savior. He smiled sweetly and said that he had prayed for my safety and that someone would get saved. I found out later that apparently when they prayed for dinner, Morgan had prayed specifically for my safety and someone to get saved. "Out of the mouths of babes..." Since then, we have essentially had to have the top half of the engine rebuilt on the car, and Clénio has suffered as Satan tries to keep him from coming to church, but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Pray that each of these will soon see the need to be baptized. Praise God! Two more souls have been redeemed and a third is close.

This coming month, I am hoping to start teaching a Bible study at the church on Saturday evening and already have interest from at least one young couple that we want to win to Christ. Our people have seen a need to purchase sound equipment for the church and are taking up an offering for that purpose. I would like for them to see the same need about missions.

Cynthia and the kids are doing well. Cynthia is working on a Bible study booklet for children and is enjoying seeing the children react as they are learning to read and study the Bible. Morgan will be finishing first grade in the next couple of weeks and then in March, Cynthia will



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be teaching both he and Aydan as Aydan starts kindergarten. We are planning to allow Daniella to sit in on school and Abigail will probably join daddy to play in the office.

Sometimes even when you speak the same language it is hard to understand your children. Morgan called our attention the other day to something very interesting that he found in the hallway. "Mommy, Daddy, come see a beetle egg!" Mommy and Daddy come to see, "Where is it? I don't see any beetle egg." Morgan waving and pointing frantically, "You walked right past it! Its right there! Can't you see the beetle LEG!"

Thank you for your love and prayers. We are thrilled to be your missionaries here in the harvest field. Be in prayer for the new converts and our congregation. Be in prayer for the upcoming Christmas season. Pray for a young lady who will be coming down in January to get to know the work as she prays for God's perfect will in her life. Continue to pray for our safety and continued financial needs as the dollar continues to lose value. God bless each and every one of you and make His face shine upon you.

...because He first loved us,

Joel E. Dickens

I Cor. 1:23

P.S. Thank you for your faithful prayer support