



## DICKENS FAMILY

## BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

January 2008

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### Este Mês Passado (This Past Month)



Sunday, December 23, we had our first Christmas play with the children and as you can see they make a nice nativity scene.

At the beginning of every year, we look back over all that you all have done and remember to praise the Lord for your faithfulness in supporting our ministry. This year has been no different as many of you gave extra gifts for Christmas, that were much needed and helped in several extra expenses that occurred.

The end of November and the month of December were busy with all of the prepara-

tions for Christmas. We saw an increase in attendance which we were excited about and added interest in Clénio the young man I led to Christ recently.

Our missionary colleague, James Nash, brought the choir from his church to perform a cantata on Dec. 15, and then we presented a Christmas play with the children on the Sunday just before Christmas.

I stayed awake all night with the men of Igreja Batista Calvário in Caruaru to celebrate the New Year Brazilian style with barbeque beef and Coca-Cola, and then January began with a whirlwind.

We spent the first 10 days of the new year hosting Amy Frye, a young lady from Greenville, NC, who is searching for the Lord's will in re-

gard to missions in her life. While she was here we passed out over 6,000 gospel tracts in Belo Jardim, Caruaru and Bezerros (approximately 2,000 in each city). Morgan even got involved and you can imagine how hard it was for an adult to deny receiving a tract from him.

December also found us looking for a house in the city of Belo Jardim with one distinct possibility, but we are waiting for the Lord's direction before signing a contract to rent it.

Thank you all for your continued love and support, all of the special Christmas gifts and cards and wishes. God bless your ministries and families in this new year.



told that it was already spoken for. I had felt that the Lord was closing that door until recently. There is a house (a large house) that might be perfect for our family and ministry, but we have not committed to it as we do not have the funds to make a move, and we want to make sure that it is the Lord's will.

Please pray, as we would like to make this move sooner than later, but we will wait on the Lord's guidance and provision.

### The Possibility of a Move

As many of you remember from our previous prayer letters, we have been working in the city of Belo Jardim for almost two years. The congregation has some faithful families, but still no members due to the marital status of those families. This year I would like to see that changed and our attendance increase and some members finally added.

To accomplish these goals and to save some of the Lord's money, we have de-

cidated that it would be better to move to the city. This might entail some changes in our lives, including moving services to our house depending on the house that we find to rent. Houses for a family of six are not easy to find in Belo Jardim, but we feel we need to be closer to the people. Ultimately this would be better for the ministry.

I have been looking when I have been making visits and every time a house appeared, I would call and be

### Special Prayer Requests

- \$2000 FOR DESIRED MOVE TO BELLO JARDIM
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF CLÉNIO AND SALVATION OF NEIDE
- GOD TO WORK IN THE HEART OF SÍLVIO
- MORE OPEN DOORS FOR REACHING THE LOST
- A MAN OR FAMILY TO CARE FOR THE WORK WHILE WE RETURN ON FURLOUGH

### From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Our guest, Amy Frye, recently had the adventure of staying in our house! Our four children knew no reticence in drawing her into the everyday workings of our home. They talked her ear off, invaded her room (despite my attempts to discourage it), and generally gave her NO privacy! She smiled through it all and even tried to teach Morgan how to play Sudoku. He was thrilled! I have no doubt that she thought I couldn't shut up, but it is hard to explain how nice it was to be able to speak English face-to-face with another woman! Sometimes I wonder if the fact that I enjoy my native language means that I am a weak missionary. I pray that, God will take me and use me, as He did those mentioned in Hebrews 11, who "out of weakness were made strong." I am not worthy of a place in that Biblical Hall of Faith, but I know that God can take any and all of my weaknesses and turn them into a testimony pointing only to HIS strength. I Corinthians 1:25-31