



# DICKENS FAMILY

# BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

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## Coisas Que Mudam (Things That Change)

The year changed, our address changed, and our life has changed as well. We have seen some changes in the people, but God never changes. We began 2008 thinking and praying about a move to Belo Jardim where we have been working for the past two years. We knew that God was leading us to this, but we were having trouble finding a place. In the Lord's timing, a door was opened when another was closed and we signed a contract to rent the house. Our move was set for March 1. February is Carnaval season and just like Mardi Gras in the states, it is a festival of the flesh where partying and promiscuity are celebrated. Most churches attempt to hold family camp or other activities to keep their people oc-

cupied and not have the influence. We had the privilege to participate in the activities of our sister church and then in



The boys playing dominos, not for money!

March, around Easter, the boys and I went to camp. It was a wonderful time to have that fellowship with other Christians. The move has kept us very occupied for the past month as we have unpacked the house and learned that in ministry in a foreign country, your house becomes a center of activity as all of your neighbors and people from the church come by to "see"

the American's house. This has provided several evangelistic opportunities in our living room or on our porch. Clénio has shown some real growth this past month and has been in my office or here at our house several times a week. He is attending seminary with me and learning and growing, but remains in need of your prayers. This past Sunday, we had 8 visitors in the Sunday service and all were folks that have been visited and invited many times, but finally came to service. All of these need to be saved. Thank you for your prayers and love. We are looking forward to seeing many of you this coming year! If any of our pastors are interested in a meeting, please let me know.

## Special Prayer Requests

- A MAN OR FAMILY TO CARE FOR THE WORK WHILE WE RETURN ON FURLOUGH
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF CLÉNIO AND SALVATION OF NEIDE
- SALVATION OF JUNIOR, VANIA, LUCIVANIA, ANTONIO, AND MARCELA
- MORE OPEN DOORS FOR REACHING THE LOST
- CONTINUED GROWTH : SPIRITUAL AND NUMERICAL

## From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Today, I need to go get my hair cut. It's needed it for months, but I just haven't had time to do it. I told Joel last week that I HAD to take time this week to get it cut. Why I am rambling about cutting hair? I promise, I do have a point! Joel mentioned that we had several visitors last Sunday night. After my declaration regarding a need for a hair cut, one of the visitors was a lady in this city who cuts hair. She has visited the church once before and said bluntly that she's "given up" on church and God. That's not surprising, given the various forms of religion she's been exposed to; but we are hoping to help change her attitude. We tried to visit with her after her previous visit to church, but she was always conveniently unavailable. How do you reach someone who says that she doesn't want to be reached? Well, you build a relationship; and in this case, go get your hair cut! At least, she can't say she's unavailable while she's cutting my hair! Please, pray for Lucivania - that her heart will be softened toward the truth of God's Word which we know can help untangle the confusion in her mind brought on by the lies of false religion.

## When We Moved, God Moved

How can you make a statement like that? The Bible says God is unmoveable. Yes, but I mean that when we take steps by faith knowing we are doing as God is leading then He moves on our behalf.

In November, I saw a house for rent. I was not necessarily looking to move, but thought it might be a good idea to check on the house, so I called. I was told that there was already someone interested, so I did not call back. I saw several houses

and received the same reponse when I called. Cynthia and I began to pray and ask God to reveal His will in a possible move.

We began to look in earnest at houses in Belo Jardim, but we were not finding something we felt right about. Then in January, as we were driving through the city making visits and feeling that possibly the Lord was not opening to door, we found that the first house I had seen in November was up for rent.

It had been in renovation when I called the first time.

Now we are in our new house, and even with its idiosyncrasies it is very adequate and has already offered many opportunities to evangelize. We were praying for the Lord to help us financially with the move and through tax refunds and such, we have seen the Lord provide. The kids, dogs, and parents love the house and except for the occasional roof leak, it is wonderful.