



DICKENS FAMILY

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The Roller-Coaster of Ministry

My father loved to preach about Elijah and his mountain-top experience against the prophets of Baal and how quickly he got discouraged when his life was threatened by the wicked Jezebel. The ministry can be a roller-coaster ride just like that.

We began May with our 2nd anniversary service. I had just finished attending a conference on the defense of sound doctrine in the state just north of us and invited a national preacher friend to preach the conference for us. He preached excellent sermons out of Revelation and we had



Anniversary Service - Temple Batista Calvario - 5-8-08

good attendance. After the Saturday evening service, Clénio's wife Neide made a profession of faith!

The following week though, this young couple had their baby stillborn. Although they both are still dealing with the loss, they seem to be growing in the Lord and are participating in weekly discipleship Bible studies.

A couple that have been attending since we started two years ago have suddenly lost interest, and another lady and her children seem to be growing cold in their spiritual

lives. At these times we walk through the valley and wonder what is happening.

Then after service one Sunday evening, Junior began to ask questions about salvation and ended the night by trusting Christ as his Savior. Pray for his growth in Christ.

In the midst of all of this, the opportunities for ministry never cease as the man who delivers our propane, Gilmar, and his wife, agreed to do a series of Bible studies. They have a great desire to understand the Bible. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and that they will trust Christ. This next month, we are praying for the Lord to bring more to understand the wonderful spiritual independence that is only available through Jesus Christ.

Special Prayer Requests

- CONTINUED SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF CLÉNIO, NEIDE AND JUNIOR
- SALVATION OF GILMAR, VANESSA, MIRAEI, AND AKISOM
- NEW CONTACTS FOR GOSPEL WITNESS
- THE LORD'S LEADERSHIP IN MAKING FURLOUGH PLANS
- EFFECT OF DECLINE OF DOLLAR

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Yesterday, I was talking with our daughter, Daniella. She's 3, so all of you who have had children will understand exactly what "talking with" implies. It is usually a conversation (I use that word loosely) with random jumps from subject to subject that, to the adult mind, appears to have no interlinking properties whatsoever. Our talk ran the gamut of "Where's Daddy?" to a discussion of syringes (I'm a diabetic, so our children live with the reality of it.), to how much she loves the wife of a nearby fellow missionary, to the fact that my husband's name is "Daddy," and then on to what kind of husband she should look for (Yes, at age three she already is talking about THAT! Her father is quaking in his boots!). . . . And all of those subjects in a matter of mere moments! Although I'm about ten times older than Daniella, sometimes I tend to talk like she does, with no perceivable theme. (No smart remarks here, Mrs. Brenda!) But in my mind it's all joined together by an unseen thread. As I thought about Daniella's and my own randomness, it made me smile to know that God doesn't ever shake his head at me in frustration or confusion, when my thoughts or prayers run amuck, bouncing from one person or need or praise to another. He doesn't laugh at me when I'm worried about something over which He already has control. He is ever patient and loving with me. And I'm glad that He puts "random" moments in my days to remind me of that!

When Plans Change, Opportunities Abound

In December when Cynthia hurt her knee and was on crutches, Morgan had to stay home with mommy while I went to church with the other children. Morgan asked, "What does 'miss' mean?" Cynthia chose to respond, "What do you think it means?" His response, "That you want to see it because you love it." Although we miss all of you, the Lord has not chosen to give us someone to care for the ministry here while we come home for our first furlough. Therefore, we

are looking at having to postpone our furlough and re-schedule meetings that have already been scheduled for the fall. In a new ministry, it is impossible to leave the people even for a short time without a competent man or family to care for the ministry. This new twist in our plans has presented new opportunities. The guitar is a popular instrument in many Latin American countries, and I have recently started taking guitar lessons to accompany our hymns in church. My teacher is very

interested in the gospel and I am praying for his salvation. Pray for Mirael. He asked to learn English in exchange for the lessons. I contacted a business that teaches English here in the city, just for advice. They are very interested in Cynthia helping teach English to children. God knows why He wants us to wait. Pastors, please contact me if you want for us to visit and report, when we do make our final plans. Thank you for your love and prayers for our family and ministry.

