



DICKENS FAMILY

BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

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God Gives the Increase

I cannot count the number of times that I have read, studied, preached and taught what Paul wrote in I Corinthians 3:6-7 "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." These past months, I have seen that verse in action. We have labored in this city for almost three years and the results have been far from encouraging, but we have continued to labor, praying for God's increase in His time.



God has opened several doors and much of it has

seemed to happen since we made the decision that we were to stay put and not come home as we had planned and wanted. These past couple months have seen the salvation of several that you all were praying for and some that I had not mentioned. Gilmar and Vanessa came to a saving knowledge of Christ. Neide's mother and stepfather, Keteria and Neizinho, trusted Christ. Neide's stepcousin Dinha, her daughter Lili, and Edmilson all have trusted Christ. A young man that is a part of James Nash's church in Caruaru won his

brother (who lives here in Belo Jardim) to Christ. God gives the increase!

This past week, I visited Edivaldo at his home. He came to services on Sunday and immediately after service let out he called me to where he was sitting, "Pastor, I need to trust Christ, NOW!" I went to his house the following Tuesday and he began to show me his motorcycle, "Pastor, remember those images of Mary on my bike? I ripped every one of 'em off my bike! I don't need any images anymore, I got Christ!"

I'd say he got a good dose of salvation! Please pray for these new converts. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



Special Prayer Requests

- SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF NEW CONVERTS
- POSSIBLE PRISON MINISTRY
- SAFE TRAVEL FOR JOEL'S PARENTS AS THEY VISIT DURING CHRISTMAS
- CONTINUED OPEN DOORS FOR WITNESS

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

I like to scrapbook. Yes, I stand among the ranks of women who hoard scrapbooking papers, stickers, etc. and take tons of pictures just to get that perfect "scrapbooking moment" shot. And with the recent discovery of digital scrapbooking, my enjoyment of it all has exponentially increased! This picture is one that I chose to scrap

recently with the caption, "They may look cute, but don't be fooled. When you peel back the cute wrapping, they're ALL little Dickens!"

And, of course, they ARE! They are classic kids (not the saintly beings that some people think missionary

children to be). They fight, whine, try to be sneaky, and yes, disobey, at times. We work hard to train them Biblically, but like us, they sin and make mistakes. However, no matter what is exposed sometimes beneath their "cute wrapping," they're mine, and I love them. :)

What does God see when He peels back my "cute" wrapping? I want to look nice outwardly, but I know sometimes I'm not very pretty on the inside. So often I have to come, humbly, before my Lord and confess a bad attitude, disobedience, or general "ugliness." And, although consequences remain, He always wraps me in His wonderful arms and reminds me of this awesome truth - I'm HIS, and He loves me. Sounds simple, huh? Well, I needed it. :) How about you?

Spiritual Life After Death

For several months, I have had the privilege to minister to the family of Neide. With the recent salvation of her mother and stepfather, I have had increased opportunities to minister.

In October, a man that Neide and her brothers and sisters considered a father and which had much to do with her childhood passed away after years with both mental and physical disabilities some say he had as a result of a stroke.

I was asked to participate in

his burial. You have to understand that the Brazilians here in the Northeast do not generally have a funeral as the body is not embalmed and usually must be buried within 24 hours of death.

I was asked to pray and share some Scripture with the family. I had several times shared the Gospel with this man, but could never



know for sure that he understood, so I simply shared with the family the hope of eternal life that they could have through Jesus Christ and His shed blood. For weeks since that day, the Lord has opened doors in this family and so far we have seen several come to Christ.

The other day I was informed by the man's sister that on the day that I prayed with him in the hospital that he told his sister that he had trusted Christ as his Savior!