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## “And They Were Added”

If you have not already, please note that our home address has changed to a Post Office box (Caixa Postal or CP) in Belo Jardim. Any mail sent to our old address in Caruaru will most likely be returned .

After having worked for three years and won souls to Christ, our desire has been to see those saved, baptized and participating in a vibrant church body. Last month, we finally were able to baptize four. It may seem like a small number, but in a country where cohabitation without marriage is such a common habit and accepted even in many churches, we are thrilled to finally have four baptized. Edivaldo, Gilmar, Maria and Leticia are all thrilled to be the first of the converts baptized and added to the local church. The day of the baptisms actually produced a teaching opportunity with a young lady who has come to church intermittently and has made a profession of faith. She insisted that I baptize her as well, but I made it

clear that baptism does not save, nor does it contain any saving grace. Pray for this lady as she needs to understand and obey Christ. Others watched and are considering being baptized as well. Baptism carries a very important connotation here. It is not taken lightly by the Brazilians and part of that has to do with the idea that the Roman Catholic church has given it. We have been excited by what the Lord has done this past month and we are praying for more opportunities to add others to this local congregation that is being built into a church for the glory of God.



## “And Brought Forth Fruit”

Sometimes you get to see the fruit bloom and sometimes you wait and never see it with your own eyes.

Aeldo and Suzineide are growing ever closer to being baptized and are busy planning visits with friends and family to evangelize.

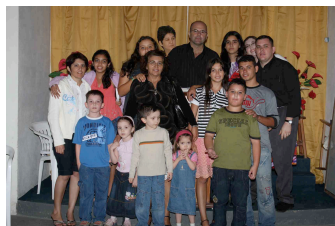
Edivaldo works every day inviting the other men in the moto-taxi (motorcycle taxi - I know, how does that work?) service where he works to come to church and come to know Christ.

Maria is constantly inviting and talking to her friends and family about what the gospel has done for her (we call her our hostage evangelist).

These past couple of weeks we have been very busy with visits to friends and family of those who have come to Christ. The next several months we will be holding church services in the houses of these once a month on Fridays hoping to reach some new couples and families.

Sunday, I watched Edivaldo

as a coworker arrived to visit church. The man's face was two-thirds smile. The blossoms are beginning to appear and that means that the fruit is not far behind. Please pray that in these next several months we can truly see some growth in this work.



### Those Little Dickens!

For our baptismal service we had to rent (for the day) a house with a pool to perform it. The house, also, had a grill; so we planned a barbeque get together for the church folks. I told them to, please, sign up on a designated sheet AND to write beside their name what food they would bring to supplement the meat that we provided. After a service, Cynthia was talking with one of our new ladies who wanted to know what was acceptable to bring. While they were talking, Morgan came to her with the sign-up paper in his hand. He began to show and explain to her (in Portuguese, of course), “Mommy, I signed me up to bring fruit, and Aydan up to bring eggs, and Daniella up to bring snacks.” With great indignance, he watched as she about rolled in the floor, laughing. She quickly hugged him tight and said that it was fine and she was proud of him for being so “grown up.” Then she asked, “So are you going to fix these things?” He logically said, “No, I’m going to BRING them.” :D Want to guess who got to FIX them?

### Special Prayer Requests

- SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF NEW CONVERTS
- BAPTISMS
- YOUTH SERVICES AND HOUSE SERVICES
- CONTINUED OPEN DOORS FOR WITNESS

### From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Today, I've been inspired/convicted by hard boiled eggs. How in the world, you may ask, could I have been inspired OR convicted by hard boiled eggs? I'll try to explain. :) When eggs are boiled, they must withstand a lot of heat and pressure in the process of changing from a liquidy substance to a more firm version of itself. Occasionally, one (or more) of them cannot handle it and breaks, making a white stringy mess and possibly spoiling the plans of the cook.

Hmmm. There are lots of times in our lives when God sends heat or pressure, giving us an opportunity to grow and change into what HE wants us to be. How many times do I react badly to stress and “crack” (forgive the pun) under the pressure? How many times have I made a mess out of or spoiled God's plans because of my fragility? To be very honest, I'm not very good at handling things out of my comfort zone. And that's where I have to step back and say that I don't have to be “good at handling” those things. I do have to be willing to hand those things over to God and let Him mold and shape me so that, when the difficult or challenging time is over, I either praise Him for enlarging my comfort zone or praise Him with a sigh of relief that it's over and trust that He will use it all for His honor an glory. In all that God brings into my life, there is a purpose that I probably cannot immediately see. But I affect the outcome of each situation with my attitude and reactions. Will I crack? Will I change in accordance with God's plan? The boiled egg doesn't have a choice, but I do. So do you. :)