DICKENS FAMILY

BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL



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Home Address: CP 33



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 .

Those Little Dickens!

You know you live in a foreign country when...One day at lunch, Cynthia decided to open a bag of walnuts that we had. The kids had never seen walnuts in the shell (and probably never seen them OUT of the shell either!), and they all wanted to know what those things were. Cynthia and I had already told them that they were nuts, but apparently, in all of the loud speculating that was going on, our voices were not heard . . . at least, by one of the kids. :) As they seated themselves at the table, still proclaiming over the strange brown things on the table, Aydan proclaimed in all the triumph of remembrance/discovery, "I know! Moraan, they're squirrel eggs!!!" Logically,



Special Prayer Requests

- SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF NEW CON-VEDTS
- BAPTISMS
- YOUTH SERVICES AND HOUSE SERVICES
- CONTINUED OPEN DOORS FOR WIT-NESS

From Her Perspective Cvnthia Dickens

Have you ever watched and smiled over a child making snow angels? Making a snow angel is just pure joy for a child. I love snow! Have I mentioned that before??? ;) Well, even though I love snow and making snow angels, the very name implies that they aren't possible here in Brazil. Or so I thought . . .

One day recently, we took our kids to a playground. It consists of some concrete slides, a set of simple monkey bars and lots of sand. Joel and I watched a little boy with a broken shovel, digging in a patch of sand, and we commented on how Aydan, our dirt-lover, would be just as happy doing it as the little boy was. A while later, I was surprised to look at the little boy and find him making . . . can you guess? Yes, an angel in the sand. :D I smiled broadly at the sight. He was doing it with such joy-making a "snow" angel in Brazil, of all places! And it made me think. Do I allow the Lord to give me joy, even when it seems impossible? I can find joy even in the hard times, if I stay close to my precious Savior. He constantly presents me with opportunities to both experience joy in my life and give joy to others. It is my job to take advantage of those opportunities :)

Who knew that I didn't need snow? I can just make angels in the sand!

"Fruit That Remains"

Anyone who has ever started a church or any ministry understands the struggles that accompany any work. Starting from scratch, it is always satisfying to start seeing a core group form from which you can build a church.

You all may recall that we had planned to come home on furlough last year and that the Lord closed the door. We had hoped to do the same this summer, but the door has also remained closed. We have been praying and working to see a core group formed and we are starting to understand why the door has been closed to be back on furlough.

These past couple of months, we have been watching the Lord help us form a core group. It is still in the begin-

ning stages, but we can see that the Lord has been blessing.

We are hoping to baptize Aeldo, Suzineide, and Ivanildo this next month and maybe one or two others. We have also been blessed by having an average of 20 or more in our main service on Sunday night for the last four weeks. Our in house services have brought in a young couple who trusted Christ and everyone seems to be encouraged by the progress. Jesus Christ said that he had ordained us to bring forth fruit that remains. Our prayer is



"The Joy of Plastic"

When we began our ministry here, my missionary colleague James Nash and his church Igreja Batista Calvário loaned us benches, a pulpit, and other furniture to begin the ministry. We had been feeling that the space in our building could be better utilized with plastic chairs instead of benches. I had mentioned the need and Cross County Baptist Church pastored by George Dickens, and the Jett family whom I have known since childhood, felt the burden to help us with these needs. We received offerings from both that have helped us buy the chairs that we needed as well as looking forward to the near future returning the furniture that was loaned so that it can be used in another ministry.

Our folks really enjoy the new look and comfort, as well as the room that we now have.

God is gracious through the sacrifices and love of those of you who give so that we can minister here in Belo Jardim,

They're squirrel eggs! why else would a squirrel cart those round brown things around with such care and obvious love? Brasil. We now have 45 chairs in the auditorium and my goal is to have them filled and needing to purchase more before the end of the year. Averaging 20 in the

main service is a good start. Thank you to all who sacrifice to give, pray, and hold the ropes for us.

