



DICKENS FAMILY BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

Mission Board:
WWNTBM
PO Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
(704)730-1440
info@wwntbm.com
www.wwntbm.com

Sending Church:
Roanoke Island Baptist
Church
Pastor Charles Tyler
PO Box 2147
Manteo, NC 27954
(252)473-2892

Home Address:
CP 33
Belo Jardim, PE 55157-310
BRAZIL
(804)451-1327
prjoel@earthlink.net

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“When God Knocks, Opportunities Follow”

It amazes me at times how when we are faithful in sharing the Gospel on a daily basis, making visits trying to bring others to Christ, and generally obeying Him in our ministries; that the Lord brings to church those who we were not expecting. At the end of December we were privileged to baptize yet another new convert, Ivanildo. Interesting thing is that Ivanildo is from a rural area a few kilometers outside the city and most of his relatives and friends there have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. We baptized

him in a pond near his home and he almost got dunked twice (we slipped on a rock). This service has opened the door for us to hold services there on a monthly basis and the folks at church seem truly encouraged at this opportunity. On several Sundays over the past two months we have seen upwards of 30 or more in attendance and that has been a true encouragement. We are seeing more faithful attenders and several repeat visitors who seem genuinely interested in the gospel. The list of prospects that the Lord has given us through those who are saved and faithfully attending is keeping us busy and the people seem excited about what the Lord is doing. God gives us innumerable opportunities every day to glorify Him.



We have a new website! Please, check it out.

www.dickensstory.com

Those Little Dickens!

Morgan has been involved in a soccer school for the past year and at the end of January the little boys played in a tournament. Morgan's team ended up second in the tournament for which he proudly wore his medal. The next week, Aydan was given the chance to start training with Morgan; and Morgan, now the “expert,” promised to “teach” his little brother. Better still was the day that he exited our room and spoke to our cat crouched and ready to pounce, “Watch out, Koosh! I have TALENTED feet,” as he did his best impression of fast-moving soccer feet for the cat. Ah! The confidence of a little success.



“Help Is On the Way”

You all have been praying with us for quite some time about several areas of our ministry and we can now report that the Lord is answering one of those requests. April will mark five years that we have been serving here in Brazil without a furlough and beside the obvious fact that many of our family have not seen us for that long, many of you would like to have a report about our ministry here. We have prayed for the Lord to open a door for furlough in His time

and His way. This past year a missionary changing fields of ministry contacted me about interest in seeing the ministry here and praying about coming to work with us, assisting us in the work. At the end of January, Andy Pollard and his wife Diana of Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples spent a week with us



getting to know our family and ministry. Since their return home, they have decided that it is the Lord's will to come and team with us in planting churches here in the interior of Pernambuco. Interesting note; they have 8 children, 7 of whom will be coming with them. This family will be a great asset in both assisting in the work and allowing us relief so that we may make a furlough. Be in much prayer as they raise additional support and as we anticipate the future.

Special Prayer Requests

- SALVATION: TEREZINHA, DIANA, DALVAN, MARCIO, JESSICA, ARISTONIO, SANDRA, DAIANE, AND OTHERS
- A BAPTISTRY IN THE BUILDING - \$300
- HEARING AID DEVICE FOR USE IN SERVICES
- CONTINUED OPEN DOORS FOR WITNESS

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

I don't usually put pictures in my little corner of the newsletter here, but this time I can't resist. It beautifully illustrates a point that God makes many times throughout His word, a point that is special to me because of how my mom taught it and emphasized it's sweet application in our lives. And how simple it is!

Ps. 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his



truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

During our latest service in the rural area outside of Belo Jardim, I was thrilled to find several of the hens with broods of tiny chicks. The hen in the photo was the prized possession of a young boy, Renā; and she had hatched one egg with many more still in the nest. As I took her picture, her young owner exclaimed with pride, “She's already famous! She's had her picture taken!” :) I took many pictures of the hens and their babies, watching in fascination as the downy chicks ran for mama when she clucked reprovingly to them. They know that she can only shelter them properly if they stay under her wing. If they dare run the other way, untold dangers await. How are you and I like the chicks? Do we run obediently to our God and His word for shelter; or do we stubbornly seek our own way, thinking ourselves courageous for “daring” to face the world on our own? That chick looks pretty content viewing the world from under mama's wing. Oh, that I, too, may be content to view the world and live my life accepting the shelter that obedience to God provides.