



DICKENS FAMILY BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

May 2010

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“Edificarei a Minha Igreja” He Will Build His Church!

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

www.dickensstory.com

Christ said that He would build His church, and we can be assured that He will keep His promise. We commemorate May as the month that we began our work here in Belo Jardim. These past four years have been full of ups and downs as people have come and gone and we have worked to build the core group. This last year we have seen some folks come and stay and it is with these that we have begun to teach and train to build the core. Some of that growth was seen this past two months as I was out of the pulpit for three weeks after undergoing hernia surgery. I had been waiting since we started here to have the surgery because of the fact that we did not have faithful men to teach in my absence, but with the sal-

vation and growth of both Aeldo and Ivanildo I was finally able to have the surgery. As I recuperated, it was a relief to know that these men were teaching God’s people. Ivanildo continues to grow in the Lord and shows tremendous ability to be used in preaching. I cannot say that Aeldo would be a great preacher, but I believe he can teach effectively. This past Sunday we celebrated the anniversary of the congregation with just under 30 in attendance and several were visitors, while some of our regulars were out sick. Christ promised that He would and He will build His church.



Those Little Dickens!

After praying before a meal, Aydan asked around the table, “Did you open your eyes?” Daniella denied having opened hers. Morgan declared that he only opened his after the prayer was done. Then a direct question was made to Abigail, “Did you open YOUR eyes?” Abigail, unconcerned and quite glibly, replied, “Mmm hmmm.” Hearing gasps of horror from her siblings, she quickly and in a conciliatory tone tried to rectify the situation. “But only THIS eye,” pointing at the offending member. Unfortunately, she was still condemned without mercy (as siblings are wont to do) with the stern, deep-voiced words, “That is very wrong, VERY wrong!” I assume that penance was waived, as the meal continued without further reference to the sin in question. ;)

Special Prayer Requests

- SALVATION: TEREZINHA, DIANA, DALVAN, MARCIO, JESSICA, ARISTONIO, SANDRA, DAIANE, AND OTHERS
- HEARING AID DEVICE FOR USE IN SERVICES
- CONTINUED OPEN DOORS FOR WITNESS

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Daniella and Abigail were arguing about . . . well, let’s say they were *discussing* . . . a certain doll that belongs to Daniella but is greatly desired by Abigail. Daniella is pretty good about sharing, but she had proclaimed that this was her day to play with the doll. Abigail, already pouting, said, “When is it my turn to play with the dolly?” Daniella tipped her head, in silent consideration. Abigail prompted her, “Tomorrow?” “Yes,” the affirmation came. “Tomorrow you may play with my doll.” The pout grew bigger and, exasperated, Abigail huffed, “I don’t **LIKE** tomorrow!”

Trying to hide my smile, I was immediately struck by the similarities to my own conversations with God sometimes. Most of us know from experience that “wait” can be one of the most frustrating answers to prayer, especially when the request is something that we desire so strongly. There may be nothing wrong with the request. It might be something right and good that we are asking of our Lord, and it might seem to us that it is a need to be urgently met with a “Yes, my child.” But still He deems it best to respond simply, “Wait.” My child-like reaction to those waiting times is much like Abigail’s. I don’t **LIKE** tomorrow – I don’t want to have to wait! But I have learned (and I type this with tears in my eyes, remembering the sweet although sometimes difficult lessons) that the waiting time is always more profitable to me spiritually than the immediate fulfillment or negation of my request. And so I thank God for making me wait, for loving me through my impatience, and for teaching me such sweet dependence upon Him and His perfect plan for all of my tomorrows.

Looking Forward to Baptizing in our Own Baptistry

One of the challenges that we have had since the beginning of the work here is not having our own baptistry. Having to rent a house with a pool or take everyone on a trip to the pond in the rural area can be complicated and we have prayed about constructing a baptistry in the building that we are renting. I was not sure how that would go over with the owner of the building, but we have been told that we could do what we needed to with the building

as long as we weren’t knocking the thing down. In our last letter we mentioned that we needed to construct the baptistry and last month some funds were generously provided by Faith Baptist in Colonial Heights. I was also contacted by Teays Valley Baptist about the possibility of helping with the baptistry. This next month we are hoping to begin construction on the baptistry and have it ready within two months. The contractor has said that it should take no more than a

week to do it. We have five people ready to be baptized and possibly a sixth... Morgan spoke to me the other day asking if he could be baptized. He and I will be talking soon to see if he is ready. Thank you for your prayer, support and love of our family and ministry as we seek to reach lost Brazilian souls.

