



DICKENS FAMILY

BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

December 2010

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Could anyone
send us some
of this????

His Unspeakable Gift

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) How well Paul gave to us a declaration of the impossibility of fully understanding or explaining in human terms the gift of grace that is forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ! It is interesting when we note that in this same chapter he uses the same phrase in Greek (*thanks be unto God*) three times in verses 11, 12 and 15. It becomes more interesting when we realize that the word "unspeakable" is only seen here, but a very similar word is used by Paul in Romans 11:33 and Ephesians 3:8 where it is translated "unsearchable". This past year has been a year of slow, but measured growth as we have seen the Lord bring people to Him and we are amazed at how He continues to provide through your sacrifices so that we can do His work. This holiday season we remember to be thankful for so many things that God has done through you for us and through us for the Brazilians. Truly salvation is an "unspeakable" gift. It is not "unspeakable" in that it cannot be shared as Paul so very clearly demonstrated with his life and ministry, but "unspeakable" in that its scope and results leave us speechless at times.

Recently we were stunned and literally speechless by the decision of a lady to trust Christ. Two years ago just before Christmas I led Edivaldo to Christ. This man of little education, but great faith in God has been faithful to the Lord. He was baptized and is a reminder every week of the grace of God. Soon after trusting Christ, Edivaldo began praying for and inviting his family to church,

especially his wife Terezinha. Terezinha has been Catholic since birth and is currently losing her hearing, but she would come to church with Edivaldo on occasion. For two years Edivaldo has been praying and asking prayer for his wife to be saved. In recent months she has been coming more recently and I have been giving her tracts to read at home since she hears little in the services. Cynthia noted a difference in her attention and attitude recently, but still no decision.

One Sunday evening about a month ago Terezinha came to me before the service and said that she wanted to talk to Cynthia and Edivaldo and I. We needed to start so she said that she would wait until after. After the service she waited and finally the four of us sat down. She looked at us and simply said, "I have been thinking about what you said, Pastor, and reading those tracts and my Bible and tonight I want to trust Christ as my Savior!" Just that simply. Needless to say we were all "speechless". Edivaldo kissed her and when he got to his motorcycle began to wave his arms and beep the horn on his bike. Little was intelligible, but I think it makes a perfect illustration. Edivaldo and all of us were "thankful for HIS unspeakable gift!" We truly serve a great God and this is the greatest time as we celebrate the arrival of that GIFT!



From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

Have you ever needed a little extra *umph* to get something done? Maybe this seems kind of silly to write about, but I was inspired (once again) by one of my children. Sometimes in the afternoons, we go down to a school where they have, what is for this area, a sophisticated track. It's a dirt oval that surrounds a lovely green, fenced in soccer field. (I suspect that the track was a convenient happenstance that occurred after the soccer field was planned and made. After all, what would life be for a Brazilian without soccer?) When we have the time to go, I usually do about 8 laps around the track; but a couple of weeks ago, we had left the house later than normal. The light was fading, and I wasn't feeling my best. So I had determined that, although I'd like to do the needed 8 laps, I'd be content if I got through 6 of them. Joel had already completed his exercise, and he and Morgan were tossing the football.

Sometime during my 6th lap, Aydan joined me. As I rounded the last curve, he said simply, "Mommy, I want to go another round with you." I smiled and agreed that we'd walk one more lap, thinking to myself, "Great! I'll get in one more than I'd planned. Seven is good!" So we walked on in companionable silence. At times, Aydan would run ahead or lag a little behind, but he was always right there nearby, walking with me. Once again, we turned to walk down the home stretch. He began to jump by my side. "Mommy! Can we go just one more lap together?" :) How could I say no? And during that 8th and last lap, God reminded me of how important a little encouragement is. Aydan didn't even know he was helping me meet my self-imposed goal of 8 laps. Neither he nor anyone else knew I was ready to give up at 6. But God sent my young son to prompt me onward when I would have been content with less. Maybe 2 laps on a track don't seem very important, but the lesson God brought me was.

How many times has God given me the encouragement I needed to continue? More than I can count. How many times has that encouragement come in an unexpected wrapping, like the form of my 7 year old son? Especially in the rush of the Christmas season, don't be afraid to come alongside another person and offer a kind word or simple smile, and in the case of someone who doesn't know Jesus as their Savior, that kind word or smile may open a door for you to share with them the real reason that we celebrate Christmas. Be an encouragement—helping your brothers and sisters in Christ onward, and pointing the lost to the Christ of Christmas.

Special Prayer Requests

- GROWTH OF NEW CONVERTS
- MISSIONARY FRIENDS: POLLARD FAMILY
- SALVATION DECISIONS OF VISITORS
- THE STRUGGLING DOLLAR
- UNDERSTANDING AND SALVATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN BOLA 2



Dashing through the heat
In our Chevy minivan,
The AC's on full blast
While we get our summer tan.
The Christmas lights all shine
From our neighbors' nice décor,
But it doesn't feel like Christmas
when
The sweat begins to pour!

Feliz Natal!
Feliz Natal!
The season is the same,
But it's so hot! Oh, could we,
please,
Just have a little rain?
Feliz Natal!
Feliz Natal!
The air here has no chill;
But though quite warm, we're
glad to take
God's message to Brazil!

:D