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We have a website! Please, check it out.

[www.dickensstory.com](http://www.dickensstory.com)

## “Keep Moving Forward”

I am certainly not one to quote films, but I have to say that over the past six years and through all that God has allowed us to do in this ministry that singular motive that we find in Philippians 3:13-14 when Paul said, “I press toward the mark!” has been a reminder of all that Christ can do when we take ourselves out of the way and allow God to work.

Since the first of the year, we have made a commitment to teach, train and grow to the point where we can take our first furlough. It appears that after 6 years we will be finally able to head stateside for our furlough beginning in November. There are many of you that we have not seen in a long time and I know that many will want us to drop in for a visit, so please call, email, Facebook, whatever is necessary because we will also be booking new churches to raise additional support and I know that our schedule will fill quickly. Our plans as of now are to get back in November and stay through June and our missionary colleague here, James Nash and I are planning on how to cover some of the ministry and our personal dealings while we are away. We would prefer a more permanent presence actually living in our home and taking care of things, but the Lord has just not allowed that, and I know that I can trust Bro. James to handle anything that may arise.

Since the first of the year we have begun taking steps to plan for that furlough and among these include making the call to our people to step up and take some responsibility for the ministries. Ivanildo will be beginning soon to teach the adult Sunday School class as he has been grow-

ing and taking more responsibility. Edivaldo has begun to see the great need for evangelism and has begun leading our evangelistic team in tract distribution as well as running a weekly van route. This has increased our weekly attendance greatly and has led to the salvation of Isaque already.

We will be baptizing four people this coming month and in our next prayer letter there will be pictures. Terezinha will be one of those and once again seeing her continue to grow in the Lord is a tremendous blessing. Our young people are also growing in the Lord and our desire is to see them actively involved in ministry. We are hopefully going to be teaching and presenting parts of the constitution and by-laws to the people in the coming months to help them understand that this is Christ’s church but that they are a part of it and, therefore, responsible for it. In short, as we “press toward the mark” we ask you to pray for us and our wonderful people here in Brazil. God is doing a work and we get to be involved. As we sow, you and your faithfulness allow us to reap the fruit that will abound to your account. We look forward to seeing many of you soon.



### From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



D a i l y devotions – it’s a subject that we’ve all probably heard preached and taught many times. My thought for today is not so

much about the need for or benefit of daily devotions (although it is quite true that we both need and will benefit from them) but is about different feelings that God places in my heart as I take up His Word on a daily basis.

There are times that I am struck with remorse over how my day was spent, feeling only a minuscule part of the grief that God must have felt as He watched me squander my time. Many times, I am filled with awe that God would breathe His Word and preserve it on the printed page (parchment, scroll, etc.) for all these years just for *me* to read and learn from. The stories of history, victory, loss, love, anguish, and salvation still excite me even though I’ve heard and read them from childhood until now! Romans and the letters of the New Testament constantly challenge my spiritual growth while at the same time, delighting my mind and heart with the depth of thought required in contemplation of their godly truths.

But my favorite feeling when opening God’s Word is that of coming home. Does it ever feel like coming home when you open your Bible – such a cozy, familiar warmth that you can’t find anywhere else? It’s as if the words virtually leap off the page to embrace me in the instruction, encouragement, and correction they offer. I’m glad God welcomes me to His Word like that – like the loving Father that He is, drawing a child to His knee. There is no greater comfort or peace. Oh, how thankful I am for each way that God’s Word affects me and most especially that it is, to my soul, home SWEET home.

### Special Prayer Requests

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

### Those Little Dickens!



The children were discussing the nativity at the table during the Christmas season, and somehow they got on to the subject of which parts they would play if they were staging the nativity. I about rolled in the floor laughing as Abigail called out excitedly, “I’ll be the three wise men!!!!”

What makes it so hilarious is that she has enough energy that she probably COULD play three people at once! Everyone began laughing, and once it had subsided, the discussion continued. Abigail pointed at Aydan and with no rancor (making it all the more funny) said, “*You* can be the cow.”

Another time, Aydan popped his head into the school room where Morgan was finishing up a project. He asked (about one of Morgan’s toys), “Morgan, can I play with Plopper?” Morgan firmly responded, “No,” and Aydan left the room, having taken no offense. In a burst of benevolence, Daniella called out, “Well, you can play with my toys for *free*, Aydan!” :D