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## “Where is Home”

We call Hebrews 11 the “Hall of Faith”, but one of the things that I find interesting is the end of verse 13, “and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” We are making many plans for our upcoming furlough from October through June. We have scheduled meetings with many of you to report and God has blessed with some new churches to present the ministry as we look to raise additional support. In our plans, we need to consider the work that God has entrusted to us here as we leave for the states, and recently in a message I told the folks that as much as I would enjoy seeing so many of you, my heart is torn because I will miss our people. The Brazilians truly are “our” people. God has given us such a burden and love for them. Our home is here, our work is here, our people are here. Yet, we have a work to do as we report to all of our supporting churches. We desperately need to visit our families, yet we will miss our “family” here.

We have seen the Lord do so much through our people here and with the baptism of Terezinha, Tuanny, Bianca and Marcelo our little congregation



continues to grow. Valdo has taken it upon himself to reach his neighborhood and he uses my car to bring up to 10 little children with him to church. We call them “Valdo’s Kids” even though none



of them are related to him. In the rural area called Bola 2 the people are beginning to understand and show real signs of progress. I believe we will soon see some there making professions. Ivanildo continues to teach and our prayer is that Aeldo will soon join him in teaching. This will make our plans for furlough a little easier as there will be men to share the load of the teaching and preaching. If we have not been able to schedule a meeting, please contact me. You can view our calendar on our website at the above address and click on the “calendar” link. Please be in earnest prayer about our upcoming furlough and several very specific requests.

1. For the Lord to give wisdom in organizing and planning for preaching and teaching while we are away and His protection over this work.
2. Purchasing of our airline tickets
3. A vehicle while we are on furlough
4. Continued growth both spiritually and numerically in the coming months

Thank you each and every one for your support, love and prayers. We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming year.

We have a website! Please, check it out.  
[www.dickensstory.com](http://www.dickensstory.com)

### From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



All mothers of 5 year olds, please, stand. Yes, I see each of you and can identify with both the joys and trials that accompany such a life.

Are any of your 5 year olds terrified of the dark? Mhmm . . . I see your hands raised. :P A darkened situation recently caused Abigail to remind me of something that is just as important for me as it is for her.

We were attempting to complete our monthly shopping with all four children in tow. While waiting in line with two carts full of groceries at the Brazilian equivalent of a Sam’s Club, the lights in the store flickered and went out for the briefest of moments. I knew immediately that Abigail (and Daniella) would react in the extreme negative to such an occurrence, so emergency calming procedures began. “Calm down. Mommy and Daddy are right here. It’s OK. . . .” Daniella did pretty well, but Abigail was already tired and the trauma of even a brief power outage was not sitting well with her. Whimpering, she sped to me with arms outstretched. As I cuddled her, I whispered to her, repeating those things mentioned above, and added, “Abigail, even more importantly, **God** can see you and will take care of you.” She pulled away to look me in the face, while still clinging to my neck. “But,” she protested, “**I** can’t see **Him**” and promptly buried her head back on my shoulder.

Her logic is so very human, isn’t it? We are terribly partial to being able to see that in which we put our trust. Yet God is far above our human logic, and the only condition He puts upon our receipt of eternal salvation is that we put aside that human logic, trusting completely in His ability to save, mold, and change our lives. From the world’s perspective, it’s foolishness to disregard logic in favor of an invisible

### Special Prayer Requests

- MEETINGS FOR FURLOUGH
- PLANE TICKETS
- FURLOUGH VEHICLE
- MISSIONARY FRIENDS: POLLARD FAMILY
- SALVATION DECISIONS OF VISITORS
- UNDERSTANDING AND SALVATION OF THE PEOPLE IN BOLA 2

Savior. “You can’t see Him!” they may jeer and taunt. No, I can’t see Him. In His human form He couldn’t “see” me either when he laid down his life on the cross, but as God, He could. It defied logic to do what He did for me—to suffer on behalf of one who didn’t even exist yet. I’m glad He didn’t squint into the future and say, “But I can’t see her.” In all humility, He pushed aside human reasoning, reached across the future, and offered me freedom—freedom from sin, freedom from hell, and freedom from the limits that our logic seeks to place upon an almighty God. Abigail’s innocently spoken words reminded me of a powerful truth; and I pray that one day she, too, will understand that God *can* see her and has seen and loved her for all eternity . . . just as He has seen you. :)

### Those Little Dickens!



In the mad rush to get ready for church one night, we sent the boys off to choose their own attire, while we focused on other tasks. Soon, Aydan appeared wearing a significantly wrinkled shirt. I cocked one eyebrow and said, “Well! It looks like you balled that shirt up and threw it in your drawer.” In innocent confusion (and clearly sure that Mom and Dad were spying on him), he queried, “How do you know??”