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We have a website! Please, check it out.

www.dickensstory.com

“Is This How Paul Felt?”

Many times the book of Acts recounts the moments when Paul would leave a city or place to move on to another or return to Jerusalem or Antioch. When we read the letters that Paul wrote to those churches that he left behind, we find him correcting errors, shedding tears of heartbreak and joy. I have to wonder how he must have felt having to leave those fledgling works behind as he moved on or returned to report.

I imagine that Paul was more than thrilled to be able to see family and friends in Jerusalem and Antioch on his return trips, but I have to think that he must have felt the same feelings that we feel as we prepare to leave our people behind to visit and report on the ministry that both God and our supporting churches have entrusted to our care.

There are so many preparations to be made before we can step onto the plane at the end of the month. So many people to encourage that, yes, we will return as long as the Lord tarries. There are so many instructions to give. And these don't even include all the things that must be packed up, stored away, or protected so that Daniel, the young man staying here to take care of things, can be primarily occupied in the ministry.

Our hearts ache to imagine the growth that will take place while we are away. Our minds wander and worry to think how Satan will attack these sheep. Our souls are filled with excitement to be able to return and see so many of our friends and family who have been praying for us and supporting our ministry for these past six years. God has done so much for us, in us and through us over the course of this first term

and the stories that we have to share of God's blessings, mercies and grace are more than this trip gives us time to accomplish.

Our goal is to step on the plane on the 28th of this month, but before that can happen your prayers and help are desperately needed. We are still lacking \$ 4,000 to complete the cost of our plane tickets and with so few weeks remaining any help in this area will be appreciated. We have already had some of you help out with this need and for that we are so grateful.

We need your prayers for the work here in Belo Jardim and those precious souls who we are leaving behind. They need your prayers to stay firm against the temptation to quit.

We need your prayers for Daniel. This young man is coming to work with us by faith. He wants to serve the Lord and we are thrilled to know that we can trust him in this. He needs your support as well. Several churches have sent one time gifts to help in his support and any others who would like to may do so as well.

Our calendar is almost completely booked from October until June, but we still have some services available and we would be glad to be able to report to all of you. You may see our calendar at www.dickensstory.com. Just simply click on the calendar link and you can scroll through any month. If you click on any name you will see where we will be.

God is already opening doors for ministry when we



return from furlough as I will be involved in teaching in a seminary we are helping to establish in the interior of Bahia, the state to our south. In fact, I have already taught my first class and Bro. James Nash is harassing me (of course in fun) about leaving him behind while we go on furlough.



Once again we thank you each one for your love and support. In a short time we will see each other face to face. This must have been how Paul felt.

Please Note:
God has provided enough for Joel to return on the 28th, but until the remaining \$4,000 is provided, Cynthia and the children will have to wait here in Brazil. Please, continue to pray with us about this.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

THE CONGREGATION TO GROW AND STRENGTHEN WHILE WE ARE ON FURLOUGH

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens

It was a month or so ago that two teens rang our doorbell. They introduced themselves and said they were doing some type of research on people in the neighborhood. I was very busy and informed them that I could not answer their questions right then. They persisted by asking when was a good time to return, so I proposed the following day. All the while, they continued throwing questions at me, despite my protests that I could not answer. Finally, as I began to forcibly close the door, one of the teens persisted further and with obvious curiosity, “You're not from around here, are you?” I hurriedly said I was not, reiterated that I needed to go, and shut the door.

Later, as I reflected on the encounter and how easily my speech gives away my foreigner “status” here in Brazil, the Lord reminded me that I should also be quickly identifiable as “not from around here” in a spiritual sense. Just as I live in Brazil but am not Brazilian, I also live in this world but should not be worldly. My behavior, appearance, and speech should point others to the fact that I am a foreigner here in this world. The things that make me different should not be loud and obnoxious but, instead, a daily quietness and confidence that I am following God and His Word in every aspect of my walk. Thanks to my mother, I have experienced how this attitude (along with actions) of obedience will show in ways that you might never imagine and to people that you never thought would notice. Sadly, I know I don't always live up to the differences that should show in my life; but I pray that my children will learn, as I continue to learn, that those things that distinguish us should not be buried beneath a desire to appear “normal” in the eyes of the world. Don't be afraid to show the differences that should be the mark of a child of the King.