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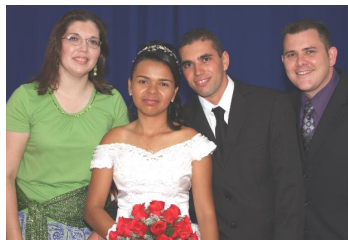
## “Back At Home”

Can you imagine the joy in Paul’s heart as he left Antioch with Silas to begin his second missionary journey and arrived back in Lystra and met young Timothy? Apparently this young convert came to Christ after Paul left the fledgling church to report to his sending church in Antioch. Paul was able to take this young man, disciple him, and see him grow to become a pastor of one of the most well known churches of the New Testament.

Our furlough was a wonderful time of visiting, reporting, making new friends, and seeing old ones. It was exhausting and invigorating, but our hearts were always here, in Brazil. When we finally stepped off of the airplane and made it HOME, our thoughts immediately began to plan for the next days. We received visits from most if not all of the folks in our little congregation in the first two days. I visited with both new prospects as well as people with whom we have been witnessing for years. Amidst all the visits, church services and ministry activities there was a house to clean and organize, groceries to buy, and other things to fix up. In short, we’ve been back for a little over a month and it feels like its been a lot longer.

God has been truly amazing in it. We were able to meet and begin to build a relationship with the young lady who came to Christ while we were away. Daniella has shown “fruits meet for repentance” and is consistently asking how soon she can be baptized. Matias, Isaque, Glauciene and Glauciane are all in discipleship classes in prepara-

tion for baptism. We have been able to celebrate the wedding of Matias and Glauciane which we have been anticipating. Silmara came to trust Christ as her Savior since



we returned. God has begun working in the heart of Dalvan who is Valdo’s son and one of many for whom we have been asking prayer for salvation. And I have already made my first trip interior to teach seminary and was pleased with sixteen students in my Old Testament Survey class. I’m still amazed that we were able to cover all 39 books of the Old Testament in 24 class hours.

It has truly been an exciting month since we have been home and we are so thankful to have each of you praying for us as we return to our Brazil. I still am not sure who is more excited to be back, us, our animals, our people; but one thing I know; we are exactly where we are supposed to be. We are right smack dab in the center of God’s perfect will.



### From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



It has been sooooo good to be back home. Looking at those words, it just seems like they’re not right. They need to be BIGGER, more expressive!!! :) Can you tell I am beyond thrilled to be here in Brazil? Now, lest you think that we came home to perfection and no troubles, I’d like to say - that’s not the case. However, I’ve been poignantly reminded more than once that the way my circumstances affect me is largely determined by my thankfulness or lack thereof. One of the joys I’ve personally had, since coming home, is hearing some of our church men pray publicly. These men used to be very reticent to do this, but they are growing (Praise the Lord!) and wanting to help and serve when asked. Several weeks ago, one of them began his prayer something like this, “Lord, I thank you for *everything* you are doing in my life . . .” Perhaps it seems like a common phrase, often heard in a prayer, but the thing was ... I knew he meant it. It wasn’t just words pouring out of his mouth. Even more incredibly, his life circumstances at that time would cause many others, Christian or not, to despair and wonder just WHAT they had for which to be thankful. Hearing his sweet words, offered to no one but God, brought tears to my eyes, and I was thankful for the bit of time I had to compose myself before he finished praying. Simple thankfulness is something that requires effort,

### Special Prayer Requests

- NEW CONVERTS, DISCIPLESHIP AND BAPTISM
- LAND FOR BUILDING
- A MAN TO PASTOR THE CONGREGATION
- SERVICES IN BOLA 2
- LABOURERS FOR THE HARVEST FIELD

and I find that when I make that effort, the things that are discouraging or weighing me down become much lighter. So ... thank you. Thanks to each one of you who give, pray, love, and care for our family in ways that we may never fully know. Just as I am blessed by our growing Brazilian Christians, I am thankful to our Lord for the blessings He has given me in you!

### Those Little Dickens!



Upon being unjustly accused by her brothers and sister of . . . wait for it . . . STARING at them, Abigail firmly defended herself, “I *never* stare.” Then sputtering as if she couldn’t even find the right words, she proved her innocence, “I - I - I don’t even know HOW to stare!” LOL! This exchange was followed by a brief sibling-led lesson on - you guessed it - staring. :D

