



DICKENS FAMILY BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

March 2013

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“Blessings in Change”

We humans are creatures of habit. In general, most of us are satisfied with the status quo and therefore we tend to be upset when things change. Yet Christianity is nothing if it is not a life-style of change. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that a radical re-creation takes place the moment that we trust Christ as Savior and then again in Romans 12:1-2 he tells us that we are constantly being transformed so that we become less like the sinful world in which we live.

We have seen some change in this new year and not all of it has been to our liking. One young man left our congregation to attend a church which teaches false doctrine, we are dealing with a situation that may lead to church discipline of another member, but God shows that He is faithful. The Lord allowed our home church to call a new pastor, Scott Baxley, and his family whom we already have begun to love and appreciate. God has been faithful to open new doors and bring new contacts. We have had visitors almost every week in the services and attendance is increasing. I was able to make a quick two week trip to the states and was able to spend time with my new pastor. Several of those that we have evangelized are getting closer to making decisions.

While I was in the states, I had the privilege to have lunch with some pastor friends. As well as visit with the first and second graders at Victory Christian Academy. I was reminded about just how much God has blessed our family and ministry. It is good to be reminded to trust God not just with our ministries,



but with the results of our obedience.

Please be in prayer for the coming weeks as we seek to continue training our people. Please be in prayer as Cynthia will be beginning to hold regular ladies meetings once again (praying specifically that the ladies will choose to participate in the planning and teaching). Pray for the Lord to raise up labourers, men and women who want to teach Sunday School as we hope to start soon classes for different age groups. Please be in prayer for the salvation of the following people: Daiane, Dione, Carla, Aderaldo, Iranilda, Almir, Jefferson, and Cleide. Also be praying for Gilmar and Tuany, Nen and Simone, that these two couples will return to church.

We want you all to know how much we love and appreciate your prayers for our family and ministry and included with this letter is a special thank you to all of our supporting churches. May God continue to bless you all.



Check out Cynthia's Daily Blog @ www.dickensstory.com/blog

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



The other night, Morgan was sprawled across Joel's chair in the living room, studying for a test over a large portion of his science material, when I asked him, "So are you ready for me to go over some things with you?" He looked less than enthused about the proposed review time, so I prompted him, "You *have* been studying, right?" He wiggled his head noncommittally and said, "Well, I'm not studying *everything* - just the parts that I *like*." ***sig*** What's a mom to do?

But how many of us do that with the Bible? Ouch!! (Sorry, stepped on my own toes a bit there.) It's great studying the parts that interest and please us; but as soon as we reach an uncomfortably convicting or maybe, simply, a difficult to understand passage, we tend to skim or skip right over it. The Lord has taught me some of the most special lessons, when I actually took the time to read Leviticus and Numbers. Aside from the fact that I've made it a personal game to try to pronounce ALL of the names correctly according to the pronunciation guide (yes, I know I'm a bit strange!), there are tidbits hidden amongst all those laws and names that God has used in my life to prove precious points about Himself. What sometimes seems like disjointed ramblings about Israel and her contemporaries by the Old Testament

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

prophets has yielded insights on my own relationship with God that can be found nowhere else. So I encourage you not to pass over those parts of the Bible. Don't allow the perceived "boring-ness" of a passage to keep you from digging in and mining God's Word in search of the glorious nuggets of wisdom that He has for you and your life! I promise - it'll make the parts you *like* mean more, when you actually study *everything*! ;)

Those Little Dickens!



Morgan told me one school morning that he wished there were no "irritational numbers." It took me just a split second to realize what he meant, and I admonished him to look at the word more closely and NOT to add syllables that weren't there. After examining it for a bit, he concluded, "Oooohhh . . . *irra-tional* numbers!"

I don't know. I kind of liked the first word. Those numbers *can* be quite irritating, can't they? LOL!