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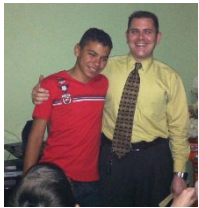
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“Wrestling with the Lord”

Genesis 32:24, “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.” We are trying to hold a special service in the homes of some-one in the congregation here about once a month. At one of these services



I preached a short message about the above verse. I have heard many men preach about it with many theories as to “why” Jacob was wrestling with the Lord. I came to the conclusion that its not the “why” but the “to what end”. Jacob was about to face one of the greatest trials of his life and he needed the power, protection, and provision of God for that moment. He was going to face his brother (whom he had offended) after 20 years of separation. As we are following the Lord in this work, we must frequently be reminded that it is not by the power of our flesh, but by the power of God that anything will be accomplished. God has been so good to us allowing us to see many visitors coming to the services and having three precious souls saved. Niscelany, Eduardo, and Fátima have all made professions of faith and we are beginning discipleship Bible studies with them and praying that they will all grow in their faith. It is amazing how quickly Satan attacks these new converts trying to keep them from growing. This past month Cynthia has been able to restart a children’s class for little ones from 2 to 6 years during our evening service. Please be in prayer for her as well as her two helpers Daniella

and Marcelo. The little children have been thoroughly enjoying this time and we pray that it becomes a good training time for Daniella and Marcelo who could someday become Sunday school teachers. Dalvan continues to grow in the Lord and is constantly bringing friends to church. There are several unsaved who have been visiting on a frequent basis and we would appreciate your prayers for them: Daiane, Diana, Emerson, Weberson and Valdemir. This increase in visitors has increased our attendance, but there are still members sometimes who allow life circumstances to interfere with their faithfulness to the Lord. The second Sunday in August is Father’s Day here in Brazil and we celebrated by giving each father a gift and taking a picture with their child or children. We are praying that each of these men dedicate their lives to the Lord and lead their families in following Christ. We would ask that you specifically pray about our possible move to another house which could serve as a place to hold services while we attempt to leave behind the rented facility and begin looking to buy land or a building. We need the Lord to lead, provide and empower in this endeavor.



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

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



I have recently (again) come to realize that I am old. I know. There are some of you reading who would dispute that and tell me that I am young. Others are probably nodding their heads sagely, happy that I’ve come to terms with my advancing age. ;) Our family was gathered for lunch recently; and our dogs and their health, as related to their age, were brought into the conversation. Trying to calm the children’s worry over the dogs’ imminent demise, I made the comment, “Well, they’re not extremely old but they’re not extremely young either.” In an effort to agree with me, Aydan affirmed, “Just like you and Daddy.” Oh, dear. Now, I’m being compared to a dog!

Later that same day, Daniella came to me and queried, quite seriously (but with a slight slip which she corrected), “Mommy, did you grow up during the Civil War . . . um, I mean . . . *she paused here to think a moment* . . . during World War II?” As I was recovering from the shock of my child thinking I was born in the 1800’s, only to be moved less than a century ahead of that, and still not be accurately age-classified . . . what was there to do but laugh? I shook my head both in the negative and in absolute resignation to the fact that, to my children, I AM OLD! *SIGH*

Special Prayer Requests

SOULS TO BE SAVED

- DISCIPLESHIP OF NEW CONVERTS
• POSSIBLE MOVE OF HOUSE AND CHURCH
• LAND FOR BUILDING
• A MAN TO PASTOR THE CONGREGATION
• LABOURERS FOR THE HARVEST FIELD

Obviously, I must deal with my outward age being greater than my mental age, and I can’t promise my children that I’ll always be here. However, I’m glad that no matter how old I get, my Heavenly Father stays the same. He has always been and always will be. I know that that is a basic truth about Him; but my children’s commentary on my own age made me stop and think about God’s LACK of age in a different way. I can’t begin to understand all of the attributes of the Holy God; but I can be assured that when I need Him for anything – guidance, comfort, direction, and even discipline – He will be there, not aging, not changing. That, in itself, is both a comfort and a conviction. Time (and our age) marches on with no regard to our like or dislike of it. But we choose to change, whether negatively or positively. May my changes be in accordance with God’s will, no matter my age.

