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

“Wait Upon the Lord”

One of the most difficult lessons to learn in the Christian life is “Patience”. I have heard preachers say, “Never pray for patience, because God will give it. Just ask Job.” In ministry, this is probably the most difficult of lessons to learn. As a missionary, pastor, evangelist (among other hats), it can be very nerve wracking to have to wait when you have so many desires and wishes, both personally and for the ministry. In our last letter we asked for all to pray for the possible move of our housing and the church. Well, almost two months later and we still have no answer. We have looked at the possible house and we have indicated to the real estate office what needs to be done to the house before we could consider renting it, but we still have not heard anything. My constant prayer has been that the Lord shut the door if it is not His perfect will or open it if it is His will. What do you do when the door is ajar? The answer is...you keep doing what you are supposed to do until an answer comes. To that end, we have been preaching, teaching, and praying and the Lord has been answering. The Lord continues to bless the seminary in the interior with new students and new opportunities. We have been asked to begin holding classes for a pastor in a city north of us in the state of Paraiba which we will be confirming in the coming month as

well as another pastor of a church farther in the interior from where we are holding seminary now. What a blessing it will be to see the Lord call men and women from these areas to serve Him as pastors, missionaries and pastor’s wives. Our congregation has seen some numerical growth in the last couple months with highs in attendance. Many of these new “faces” have been in ongoing Bible studies weekly. A group of eight young singles have been coming weekly to study the Bible and our prayer is that each of these comes to a saving knowledge of Christ. Please pray for the salvation of Aderson, Wenison, Tácio, Jéssica, Cassiano, Gleide, Simone, Diana, Reinato, Fernando, Dennis, and Adson, as well as several others. Please pray for the baptism and growth of some new converts. We also would ask that you pray for the ladies and men’s outreach ministries. Cynthia has seen an increase in interest from the ladies in this area. The men



are beginning to work on an outreach and fellowship ministry using futebol (soccer), decidedly the most popular pas-time for Brazilians (also helps overweight missionaries get back in shape). God bless you all and thank you for your continued love, support and prayers.



From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



Recently, during a moment of family levity, Abigail finally got her giggling under control and sighed happily, “Mommy, you make me

smile!” Of course, who wouldn’t smile at a compliment like that? I did and promptly returned the compliment, “Abigail, you make ME smile, too!” She just giggled some more, acknowledging her ability to spread joy. ;) (Anyone who knows Abigail knows just how true that is!)

A thought that followed close on the heels of that interaction between me and my daughter was this . . . I wonder if I make GOD smile? And talk about a sobering thought! Immediately, convicting memories crossed my mind of times when surely He couldn’t smile at me because of my childish behavior and willful disobedience. How many times has He watched me sadly or even found it difficult, if not impossible, to observe me at all because of my sin and failings?

But there are, also, other things brought to mind when I think of God smiling at me – memories of times when I did nothing to deserve His smile but when He has mercifully and comfortingly given it. Perhaps it came in the form of an encouraging word from a friend, a verse in my devotions that touched me in a new and unexpected way, an opportunity to be a help to someone else, a hug from one of my Sunday School kids. I couldn’t hope to list all of the ways in which God has smiled at me, and NONE of them are merited. But that’s the wonderful thing about my Lord. He knows me, teaches me, corrects me, and if I let Him,

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

gives me joy through it all. So very humbling and yet, . . . I’m thankful that He both gives me smiles and makes me smile, too. :)



KIDZ CORNER

Various Contributors

My name is Morgan and I like LEGOs. One of my favorite times was when Daddy and I went to a place that is like a desert. (Daddy has a seminary class that he teaches there.) I became dehydrated that first day, because it was very hot. The next day, I stayed at the house we were staying at and played. The third day, I went with Daddy to the seminary class. The fourth day, I played during the morning and during the afternoon I went with Daddy to the seminary class. The people that we stayed with had a pet parrot who loved to whistle and talk. I tried to teach him “Hello” in English, but he would not say it.