



DICKENS FAMILY

BELO JARDIM, BRAZIL

December 2014

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“Be Content”

I was making a visit with a young man who has recently begun attending our church here. He mentioned how the Lord had been using the following verse to help him. Philippians 4:11, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” This young man (Rafael) was a saved man attending a church which taught false doctrine, but was searching for answers to questions that he had. God used two men from our church who work with him to introduce us and through the Word of God he is finding the answers to those questions. One of the things that I will always have difficulty getting used to is the “heat” during Christmas. But just like Paul says in the verse, doing what the Lord has called you to do, where He has called you to do it allows you to be content. Christmas is not about the snow, trees, cold, lights and the rest, so no matter how hot it gets we can be content knowing we are right where God wants us to be. In October, we were content living without Cynthia here at home. She traveled to the states for the month of October to visit with her mom and dad and help out as her dad recovered from illness. We praise the Lord that he is doing better and I am particularly pleased to have her back home. God kept me occupied with visits and being the “nutty professor” for the kids while she was away. I must say, I think we survived quite well. I did not burn the house down. With the help of the kids, we kept the house clean, and everyone even wore clean clothes. The church was blessed with the salvation of Gisele. She is the sister-in-law of Diego who is a recent convert and she along with

her three boys and husband have been coming to church on a consistent basis. Her husband Emanuel needs your prayers for his salvation. In November, Cynthia came home and we have been busy with activities leading up to Christmas. I preached a conference for a national pastor friend in a neighboring state. Unfortunately, we were saddened by the news of the murder of a dear friend and missionary colleague, Marjorie Browning. Ms. Browning worked in the interior region of Bahia where Bro. Nash, Pr. Edilson and I make our seminary trips every other month. She was a true gem and faithful missionary. She gave her life to and for the work of Christ. This month we have begun discipleship classes during our midweek service for the entire congregation. These services have been well attended with excitement on the part of all involved. Like the child who knows he is getting exactly what he wanted for Christmas, it is easy to be content when things seem to be going well. It is these times that we strengthen our weaknesses in preparation for the trials ahead. We as a family wish that each of you find contentment in Christ this Christmas.



From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



While on a trip recently, I was talking with my family via Skype. Each of the children took turns talking with me, and when it was

Abigail's turn, she grinned and bounced in front of the camera but hemmed and hawed in an attempt to converse. I waited with raised eyebrows (as it is extremely uncharacteristic for Abigail to have nothing to say), and finally, laughing, Joel exclaimed in the background, “She's got Skype-fright. She's speechless!” She turned and with great indignation cried, “I am NOT!!!” as if it were the most demeaning insult that could be leveled at her. And then her tongue was loosed and, as I had initially expected, the words tumbled out so quickly I could hardly catch them all! LOL!

It made me ponder how sometimes we find ourselves “speechless” when it comes to sharing the gospel with others. We've got the best news out there –we should be bouncing with eagerness to share it, yet sometimes fear of rejection or being considered “strange” keeps us hemming and hawing. The insanely busy Christmas season offers abundant opportunities for mentioning Christ and why He came to this earth. Unfortunately, too often, we allow Him, the real Reason for the season, to be overshadowed or pushed aside by that busyness. There may be no chance of slowing the pace, but as we rush about attempting to fulfill family, work, and even ministry obligations, let's not be speechless. Let's keep our tongues loosed and ready to kindly share the gospel – God's gift to mankind and the only one that really matters.

Special Prayer Requests

- DISCIPLESHIP
- STEPS TO ORGANIZING THE CHURCH
- BIBLE INSTITUTE
- LAND AND FINANCES FOR BUILDING
- A NATIONAL TO PASTOR THE WORK
- OPEN DOORS FOR EVANGELISM

KIDZ CORNER

Christmas in South America



The kids are all getting older and with that age comes some new perspectives. Morgan will be turning 14 in February, Aydan will be 12 in March, Daniella just turned 10 in October and Abigail will be 9 in January. I asked each of them, “What do you think when I say Christmas in Brazil?”

Daniella, “I just worry that we will do a good job with the Christmas play.”
Abigail, “I think about the presents and other things that we get on Christmas.”
Aydan, “I think its funny that we sing Christmas songs and carols about snow and ice while we are sweating.
Morgan, “I think about passing out the cookies mommy makes to our neighbors, the quitanda (fruit market), the bread store, and the chicken guys (the meat store).