

June/July 2016

Dickens Newsletter

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Psalm 126:2



Back in the States

Although separate flights we made it safely and started furlough

June 6th I took Cynthia and the kids to the airport and watched their plane take them to the states and our waiting families. Although she arrived sick, Cynthia made it to her parents house and spent some time with them until I flew out on the 14th. We participated in Family Fellowship Week with our mission agency WWNTBM at Valley Baptist in Edinburg, VA, where we were able to reunite with some wonderful friends and coworkers and meditate on Paul's idea of being "workers together with God"! We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful time of refreshment and fellowship as well as desiring to be an encouragement to our fellow laborers and their children. We are glad to report that we were able to get to know Noel Ring who will be marrying Joel Smothers who is on deputation to come work with us in Brazil. We truly look forward to being able to have this couple join us in the ministry in Belo Jardim. A big thank you to all who helped in making FFW such a blessing.



"Buddy Bell"

Abigail and her favorite missionary evangelist Russell Bell (her "buddy Bell")



Joel Smothers

We got to spend some time with Joel and his fiancée Noel Ring. Pray for them.



Traveling Begins

We arrived one week apart and began traveling. Please pray for traveling mercies.

Helping in West Virginia

An unscheduled trip to West Virginia became a blessing and a lesson in brotherly love.

On the 24th of June, flood waters from heavy rains the night before flooded parts of West Virginia. One of the places hit was the church and school where I spent my teenage years. The Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Elk Valley Christian School were devastated by 7 ft of flood waters in the gym and 5 ft in the sanctuary. Together with some wonderful brothers from Grace Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA, we traveled to Elkview where we assisted in the clean up of the church and helped one of the retired teachers clean up her mud and water covered basement. Many more people in other areas lost everything and some churches and pastors saw their churches and homes a total loss. The goal was to be a blessing, but we ended up being blessed by all those who were so grateful for just a little bit of help. Over the course of the next several weeks and months more help will be needed.



Last School Visit

Just before we left Brazil we were able to make one final visit to one of the schools and continue our evangelistic work there. We presented the gospel to nearly 500 students in five sessions over the course of the day. We are praying that this work continues as the men of the congregation take advantage of the opportunities to visit the schools in the city.



PRAYING FOR THE CONGREGATION

Its always hard to leave behind a congregation of people whom you have taught, loved, and cared for; but I imagine that Paul felt much the same way when he left a city and group of believers to travel either to another city or returning to Antioch. I was able to leave behind a group of men as a leadership team with Rafael as the leader. Although not called to preach (as of yet), he loves the work and is taking seminary courses. His wife Gerlanne recently trusted Christ and his oldest son Pietro sings with the children's choir. The work is and should continue in our absence so please pray for souls to be saved and the work to flourish.

