

# Dickens Digest

Feb/Mar 2017

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Traveling Mercies
- ◆ Congregation in Brazil
- ◆ Rain for Belo Jardim
- ◆ Family Health
- ◆ Joel Smothers support
- ◆ Building Fund
- ◆ Car Fund for vehicle in Brazil
- ◆ Cynthia and her mother

## Furlough Frenzy

During this furlough we have learned much about transition and trusting the Lord in the midst of life's changes and challenges. We are very ready to return to the field, to our people in Brazil, and to the place that we call home. As many of you know, Cynthia's father passed away on the 30th of November. Our Christmas was dominated by dealing with that loss and helping her mother with all that follows. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and prayers that we received as we dealt with this event. We so appreciate all of the prayers as we continue to navigate this time and help Cynthia's mother do the same. The beginning of January brought us record snowfall in Virginia which delighted all of us as we were praying for the Lord to let us see some snow. Our travels picked up again as we reported to supporting churches, attended mission conferences and presented our family and ministry to new churches.



One of the new churches decided to partner with our ministry. In the month of February we experienced three weeks of the flu through the whole family which was not something that we expected, but the Lord was gracious in that our meetings were only on weekends and I was able to report to our supporting churches. We begin the month of March looking forward to our return to Brazil. We are in close touch with our people in Brazil and we do not know who is more excited about our return. Our children tell us almost every day how ready they are to go back "home"! Our hearts are heavy as we anticipate leaving Cynthia's mom behind, but just as the Lord has been faithful through this furlough to strengthen, comfort, and guide we know that He will continue to do so as we prepare to begin our next term. There are many of you who we have not been able to see on this furlough, but we are so grateful to have each of you as partners and prayer warriors. We can't wait to see what the Lord will do in us, through us and for us for His glory!



## From The Field

I get reports from Rafael on a regular basis. The children's choir is beginning to practice again which is an answer to prayer as our desire has been for the people to take responsibility for the ministries of the church as Ephesians 4 states. Although I know that there have been moments of frustration and trials both spiritual and physical, he remains committed to leading the work until I return. He mentioned something to me the other day that I thought was so appropriate to our lives as Christians: "Pastor, I found myself getting discouraged with the complacency of people until the Lord showed me to keep myself right with Him and just serve Him." My prayer is that this attitude not only remains, but is seen by others and becomes a desire in the lives of all of our people.



## Kidz Korner - Aydan Dickens

I prayed and God sent snow!

Since it does not snow in Brazil, when we came to America Mommy told us to pray for snow. We were praying hard for snow since July, and when we heard that some snow should come we prayed even harder. At first we were only supposed to get a little bit of snow, but it went up to eight to ten inches of snow! When the snow came, we were thrilled! Our cousins came and we played with them in the snow. It was amazing! We made snow angels, sledded down a hill, and just admired our footprints in the snow. God is so good.

And I told daddy, "And thats the power of prayer!"

## In Her Words

Cynthia Dickens

So often, I don't know what to pray. Emotions, worries and fear so cloud my mind that I cannot even form thoughts that make sense to me. But the Holy Spirit, as my spiritual compass, continues to point me to God. God has both taken me TO and brought TO me those things that He knows I need. While I cannot necessarily trust the calming things the world offers to a distraught soul, I can trust God's guiding hand. Of course sometimes my problem lies in not knowing when He's putting up a STOP sign in certain situations and when He's trying to teach me to push through the difficulties. And it's usually in those humanly confusing times that I find my words and thoughts are jumbled to the point of my prayers being unintelligible. And while I know the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, when we don't know how or what to pray, there's most certainly an element of trust even in that. And I guess that's what it all comes down to ... trust. How far am I willing to trust? I don't really have an answer to that right now, because I believe that trust is something that is ever-growing. When we cease to grow in trusting God, then we've chosen to rely on someone or something else. Because no matter how much physical strength, mental aptitude, financial acumen, etc. anyone has, there is always an end to our human resources. Trusting God's infinite power is a moment-by-moment exercise without which we doom ourselves to a life of, at best, Christian mediocrity. And, as Paul encouraged the Corinthians to do in his first letter to them, I want to strive for the mastery.

Lord, please, give me wisdom  
to enjoy the things You've given but not lose myself except in Your Word,  
to love the world around me but not cling to anyone but You,  
to taste the earthly blessings You bestow but not overindulge except in Your service.

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