

# Dickens Digest

Apr/May 2017

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Evangelism and Discipleship
- ◆ Rain for Belo Jardim
- ◆ Family Health
- ◆ Joel Smothers wedding and support
- ◆ Direction in buying or building
- ◆ Car Fund for vehicle in Brazil
- ◆ Cynthia and her mother

### Enduring Mercy

*Psalm 136:1 O give thanks unto the Lord: for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

The phrase "mercy endureth forever" appears 41 times in the Old Testament and 26 of those are in Psalm 136. The Psalmist describes God's character and marvelous acts on behalf of Israel. Over the course of our last month on furlough and throughout our first month back "home" we have seen God's hand of mercy over our family and ministry.

We began the month having a wonderful time in the mission conference of our home church where the Lord truly moved and everyone agreed that it was more a missions revival than just a conference. Many decisions were made and one young man



surrendered to missions. Our last month was spent packing and helping Cynthia's mom, saying goodbye to family and friends and then heading to the airport with our 23 bags not counting carryons. We watched as God worked to have our extra bags paid for through vouchers from

American Airlines and a special gift from dear friends. There was a discrepancy with the validity of our visas, but the Lord worked that out without incident. We made it safely home with ALL of our bags. Of course arriving "home" after 10 months means days of cleaning, arranging, unpacking and just settling in. God has been able to help us get settled in and unpacked as well as get back to the routine of homeschool and ministry. Through a dear supporting church in Texas, the Lord has provided help with a printer for a national pastor in the Amazon so that we can help him begin seminary classes with his men. Then last week we got word from a supporting church in Virginia about a sacrificial gift of \$20,000 toward our building fund! And the Lord has sent much needed rain! Truly we do not deserve such mercy, but we praise the Lord for His continued blessings! A huge "thank you" goes out to all of you who have and are praying for us and support us so sacrificially. We are amazed at the mercies of the Lord!



### From The Field

Since returning to the field at the end of April I have dedicated the messages on Sundays to preach about the grace of God. Our midweek service has been teaching about the second coming of Christ as seen in Paul's letters. The people seem to be enjoying both series and we have at least one lady who is interested in getting baptized. I have already gotten involved in seminary classes teaching one weekend in May, and the men here are desiring to study on a regular basis. The couples in the congregation would like to have some Bible studies on marriage and it is time to get back to evangelism in the neighborhoods. Due to the large gift promised for our building fund, we need direction from God about whether to buy an existing building to remodel or buy land and build ourselves. Also, we need the Lord's direction in what location to buy. We are excited about the coming months; but we know that Satan is not, so please be in prayer for all of these things.



## Kidz Korner - How to Catch a Fish

While we were in the OBX at our home church for missions conference the kids were invited to go fishing. So on Friday morning of the conference we went fishing at a friend's pond. The boys got to help dad dig for worms and then we started fishing. It didn't take long for Aydan to catch his first fish. Our surprise came when he caught his second, and then his third. Everyone was questioning what he was doing differently since even "experienced" fishermen were not catching anything. So...we asked. His reply, "First get get a fat juicy worm, then just before you throw the hook in the water you pray and ask Jesus for a fish." Violá! Abigail was quick to take up this new technique and as Daddy helped her get ready to cast her line he heard her begin to pray. Sure enough, she caught one! Morgan was next and when his fish came out he assured us that he, too, had prayed. Thankfully, Aydan clarified his theology on the way home. He said, "It's not as simple as just asking for a fish. You have to thank God for "letting" us go fishing first!" Is "catching men" that simple?

### In Her Words Cynthia Dickens

In the cloud

I love technology. That may shock some of you, :P but it's true. I get it from my daddy. I don't think I can remember a time he didn't have a computer in our house. For a time, we had a Mactinosh - this was back in the early to mid 80's, before the iMacs and MacBooks of today. I loved those rainbow striped Apple stickers that Daddy brought me! We had other computers over the course of my childhood, too; and learning typing from the earliest Mavis Beacon software or polishing my Bible trivia in "Bible Baseball" was no chore to me! Of course, since those days, technology has progressed by titanic leaps and bounds. We hold much more powerful computers in our hands nowadays than those that took up most of Daddy's desk, when I was a little girl. We communicate now in ways that were barely imagined a few decades ago. We are no longer limited to a bunch of 5 1/2" floppy disks for storage but, instead, upload massive files in seconds to "the cloud." And, yes, I do have a point to all of this reminiscing. ;)

Hebrews 12 talks about another cloud - a cloud of witnesses. I recently sat in church, looking at that passage; and the thought hit me, "My daddy may be in that cloud now!" [I say "may be" because I know that there are some who believe the cloud is limited to the saints mentioned in Hebrews 11 and others who contest that the cloud includes all believers who have gone on to Heaven. I'm not here to debate that but simply to say that ...] That cloud is way better than any technology that has been or will be developed. :D My daddy, along with other loved ones, now knows the God I serve more intimately than I can hope to know Him while here on the earth. And Hebrews indicates that Daddy may be capable of seeing me, Mama, and his beloved family, as we run this Christian race. With my sight set on Jesus Christ alone, Who waits at the finish line for me, I will strive to run worthily while rejoicing that Jesus already met Daddy there. Heaven (and Jesus' sacrifice so that we can go there) becomes more precious with the passing of each person who is dear to us. I pray that I can effectively communicate the gospel to those around me here in Brazil, because if the Lord tarries, I want to know many more people who may be in that cloud, too.

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