

# Dickens Digest

Oct/Nov 2017

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Evangelism
- ◆ New Converts and Discipleship
- ◆ Family Health
- ◆ Joel Smothers support
- ◆ Building and Construction
- ◆ Car Fund for vehicle in Brazil
- ◆ Cynthia and her mother

### Its Been so Long

*Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now:*

For our family, many of you have been partnering with us faithfully since we began deputation in 2002. You have been praying for us and supporting us faithfully as we arrived in Brazil in 2005. You have prayed for us as we began our ministry here in Belo Jardim in 2006. We have such exciting news! On Sunday, October 8th, we were able to organize the Calvary Baptist Congregation into the Calvary Baptist Church! With 11 members signing the charter and another 8 or more preparing to be baptized or join in the near future, we are excited about the days ahead.

I want to apologize for the delay in getting a prayer letter out, but we are so thankful to have such faithful partners in our ministry. In August we baptized 6 converts and since August we have had 4

people make professions of faith! We are hoping to be able to start another discipleship course this month leading to another baptismal service. Due to the generous offering we received we are in the process of purchasing the land that we feel the Lord would have us buy so that we can begin construction of a building. Please be in prayer for these next steps as they all depend on the registration of the church with the local government so that we can open a bank account in the name of the church. God is blessing and working in the lives of our people here and we thank Him and praise Him for it. The weather is heating up which means that the rain has stopped, but for those who have been praying we received significant rain and the water in our pipes is flowing once again. Now we only get it every two weeks, but it's better than nothing. The Lord is worthy to be praised!



### In Other News

Joel has been busy with the church work and traveling for seminary and Bible Conferences. He was able to attend a Bible conference in Salvador and teach about Creation.

Cynthia has seen growth in the ladies group using a translation of the book Hinds Feet on High Places. One lady in particular has shown tremendous growth and leadership.

The kids are finishing up their school year and Cynthia is working hard with them so that they can start the new school year as soon as possible.

Morgan has preached twice in the church services and continues to grow in the Lord.

Aydan is progressing with his trumpet and helps wherever he can.

Daniella just turned 13 and is very excited to be a teenager.

Abigail is finishing fifth grade and continues to not be excited about school; however, playing with her dogs is always a more desirable option.



## Kidz Korner - Preaching My First Sermon

Morgan Dickens

It was truly an experience I will never forget. God worked things out this first time to where I got to go on a trip with some pastors who I respect very much. They gave me some great advice and really helped me in preparing my sermon. It was supposed to be only ten minutes long, because I was not the only person scheduled to bring a message that night. My best friend Felipe and his younger brother Everton were also supposed to preach. Unfortunately, Felipe was not able to prepare a sermon, due to his school that week. Therefore, Everton and I were given five extra minutes each. I prepared my sermon almost all week, and, when Sunday night came, I still did not feel that the sermon was perfect. I prayed that God would help me say only the words that He wanted me to say. It was truly a life experience for me to be preaching my first sermon. I only hope that God will continue to use me to bring glory to His Name.

## In Her Words - Cynthia Dickens

In early 2017, when we began our preparations to return to Brazil, the number of tasks needing to be taken care of was overwhelming. As we worked at sorting what we had accumulated during our 10 ½ months in the US, I dealt with many conflicting emotions and worries - happy to be going home, sad and worried to be leaving my recently-widowed mama, pressured to make the right choices regarding what to pack and store and what to pack and take, considering the possible financial impact (customs fees) for what we were taking back to Brazil, anticipating the long flight back and the health problems that had already presented themselves during flights, etc., etc. I prayed much as I systematically worked in the house that God had provided for us during our furlough (Thank you, Pastor Nunnally and Grace Baptist Church!), and the recurring prayer that God put on my lips was, "Please, go before us, Lord. In every place, decision, encounter, and situation, may You walk before us and prepare the way according to YOUR plan."

You know the poem "Footprints"? I remember reading it so often that I about had it memorized, when I was a little girl. And it's certainly a powerful reminder of God's care and our walk with Him. But, with no disrespect to the poem or the comfort to be gained therein, that's not always how God works. Sometimes we get to walk alongside God, as He guides and directs us, and He can certainly choose to carry us like a Father does His child. But sometimes He simply leads – His own preparatory "footprints" clearly marking the steps we should take. His strides are never so big that we can't reach, and He never leads us where we can't follow. It's when we choose to allow HIM before us that we will find His plan evident and perfectly suited to our needs. And, yes, that's exactly what He did for me, as we returned to Brazil. I could give specific examples of how I marveled, watching Him walk (and work) before us, but I think I've already written enough! (Joel always struggles to fit my ramblings into their prescribed spot in the prayer letter – LOL!) So I'll just say ... "Thank YOU!" to my wonderful Lord for going before me then and for continuing to do so every day.

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