

Dickens Digest

August 2018

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Evangelism
- ◆ New Converts and Discipleship
- ◆ Family Health
- ◆ Joel Smothers Family support
- ◆ Building and Construction
- ◆ Car Fund for vehicle in Brazil
- ◆ Our Home Church's Trip to Brazil

Laborers Together

In 1 Corinthians 3:9, Paul makes the following declaration, "For we are labourers together with God." Paul was correcting the church in Corinth about their obsession with following certain men. But Paul spoke often about his "co-laborers". Paul highly valued those with whom he worked in ministry, and these last few months we have had the privilege to appreciate our co-laborers. In April and May I was busy with seminary trips and preaching opportunities with pastors and churches with whom we have sweet fellowship. One of these was the annual "Men's Retreat" that is planned by our sister church in Caruaru. This year several men came to Christ and many men rededicated their lives to the Lord. In June we welcomed Joel and Noel Smothers for a visit during the World Cup. It is hard to describe the attention that Brazilians pay to the games, but suffice it to say that it is an all consuming activity. Joel and Noel were surveying things here in preparation for their arrival hopefully next year. We look forward to their arrival and our future ministry together. They were able to participate in our Brazilian "Valentine's" celebration.



Also in June, Cynthia traveled to the states for three weeks to participate in her mother's marriage celebration. Then in July, Cynthia's mother and cousin came to visit for 10 days. We had such a sweet and wonderful time together and no matter how many people tell "mother-in-law" jokes, I will always say that Rachel Morgan now-Campbell is my "favorite" mother-in-law. This month of August has already begun in a flash. I am currently teaching a two week seminary class by way of video with a group of students 500 km away. In two weeks, my pastor and 9 sweet people from our home church will be coming to visit for a week. We have been so blessed to have so many co-laborers in



ministry. Whether it is you who pray for us and support us so faithfully; couples like Joel and Noel who plan to come work with us, or family like my mother-in-law; each of you mean so much to our family. God has given us mentors in ministry and friends to encourage. Each one has an important role to play as we "always abound in the work of the Lord" together. What a joy to know that we are not "in the fight" alone!



In Other News

Some years ago, we began to minister to a family and they all made professions of faith. I had often wondered about Emmanuel's salvation, but I'm not God. On Easter weekend at the men's retreat, Emmanuel realized that his profession was false and came to Christ as Savior. For three years I have been asking him about discipleship and baptism and the answer was always, "I'm not ready." Well now he is! Two weeks later, another young man who made a profession three years ago realized he too was unsaved and confessed Christ as Savior. Emmanuel and Aderson, along with Nicelanny, Daniele, and Rosa will all be baptized at the end of August. Another young man, Gilmar, who was one of our first converts here in Belo Jardim, reconciled with the church last month. God is working and it is a result of prayer! Continue to pray about the church's land and building.

Kidz Korner - When Mom is Away...

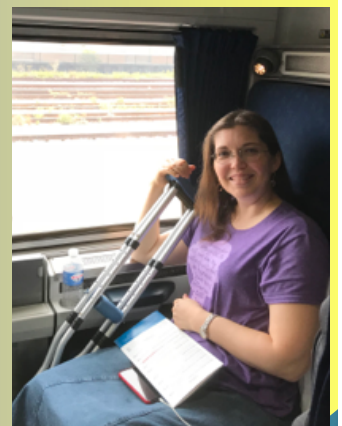
Aydan said, "we basically went about our normal life." Thanks, buddy! He was supposed to say, "we got into a lot of trouble. Daddy let us do what we wanted and we tore the house apart." Actually, we tried to maintain normalcy and keep up schoolwork, housework and church work. We didn't do too bad. Yes, we all missed Cynthia while she was with her mom in the states, but God allowed us to participate in the transition service of our ministry colleague James Nash as he handed over leadership of his church plant to Brazilians. All of the kids are finishing up their school year so that they can begin their new grades (12, 10, 8 and 7). Yes, Morgan will be a senior this year. They are each a tremendous help in the ministry here and we praise the Lord for their growth "in wisdom and stature." (I emphasize stature.) The boys are taller than me!



In Her Words - Cynthia Dickens



Usually this is Cynthia's space, but due to the fact that she was gone for three weeks in the states and that she broke her ankle while she was there, I (her appreciative husband) am contributing for her. She has been playing catch-up on a bum ankle and has been trying to make up for the schoolwork I let the kids slide on. Thankfully though her break was very minor and more like a severe sprain, but as many of you can attest, some times those types of injuries can take longer to heal. She has been very busy getting the kids back up to speed as well as her normal "mommy" activities, helping me with the ladies ministries in the church and organizing and teaching the children's Sunday school class. She greatly enjoyed her mother visiting, but was hobbled the whole time. She has been enjoying having cuddle time with our 10 fila puppies that were born at the end of May and is not looking forward to them finding new homes. The other day she shared something with me that I'm sure she would share here if time permitted. She told me about how she is constantly amazed at the mercies of God. How many times in the Bible do we find the Lord giving careful instructions with warnings before something bad happens? Cynthia has always been a planner (this helps her impulsive husband) and she feels much more comfortable "knowing" what will happen. Our God is so loving, merciful and gracious, that He warns, advises, and even details what can and will happen if we choose to follow Him. This doesn't mean that we know every detail, but we can be assured and confident that if we follow Him, "His way is perfect."



Personal Contact Info:

Joel and Cynthia Dickens
Rua Amelia Soares Paes, 10
Belo Jardim, PE 55157-310
prjoel619@icloud.com
(804)451-1327
+55 81 98299-9177
www.dickensstory.com

Sending Church Info:

Roanoke Island Baptist
Church
Pastor Scott Baxley
1234 Hwy 64/264
Manteo, NC 27954
(252)473-2892

Mission Agency:

World Wide New Testament
Baptist Missions
PO Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
info@wwntbm.com
www.wwntbm.com
(704)730-1440