

Dickens

Digest

September 2019

A Lot is Happening!

Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," God has been so good to us and much has been happening. In April, we celebrated Ressurrection Sunday after another men's retreat where the Lord worked in the hearts of our men and many decisions were made. In May I had the privilege to travel with a supporting pastor Ray Haskett and his missionary James Nash as he preached a family conference in Salvador. In June we began our move to our new house here in Brazil and in July I prepared for my short trip back to the states to celebrate my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. I also traveled to



the interior for the graduation of another group of students. There is a new group that will begin studying in January. During the month of August I was away in the states reporting to some of you as well as taking the time to visit with my parents and inlaws, while Cynthia and the kids remained here in Brazil.

The work here has seen an increase in attendance and participation, especially during my absence. Thankfully I did not have to call on much outside help for the preaching and teaching as the men of the church here stepped up and handled most of it. Morgan and Aydan were heavily involved and have shown their desire and love for the ministry. Both have said that the Lord has called them to ministry wherever and however He chooses to lead them. I was thrilled at how well the men did in handling the services in my absence. We began September with Hurricane Dorian preventing my return for a week and having Joel Smothers arrive to begin his search for housing for his family. October 11th he will return with his wife and son to begin their ministry here with us. Please be in prayer for every detail of this transition. Our construction of the new building is on hold as we await the Lord's leading in respect to purchasing more land to resolve the access issue that has occurred. Through some wonderful gifts, the Lord has provided funds for the construction once we have the access issue resolved. Please be in prayer for this. We praise the Lord for all that He is doing here in Brazil.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Evangelism
- ◆ New Converts and Discipleship
- ◆ Family Health
- ◆ Joel Smothers Family arrival
- ◆ Building and Construction
- ◆ Car Fund for vehicle in Brazil



In Other News

We have moved! We are still in Belo Jardim, but the Lord has provided a home for us with much more space which will allow us to host visitors, and has put us within four blocks of the construction site for the building! The kids love the ventilation in the house, extra space, and an extra bathroom. The dogs love the yard! Cynthia loves the view from our back window! Morgan has graduated! Yes, he finished his course! He is looking into spending this year studying by correspondence and perhaps beginning to give English lessons, but hopefully next year he will be able to return to the states. Please pray for his future and the plans that the Lord has for him. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN FIELD ADDRESS SINCE OUR MOVE TO THE NEW HOUSE.





Kidz Korner - Helping in Nursery -

Daniella Dickens

I am really excited because I am just starting to help with Sunday School and Nursery for the young children. Last Sunday I played with one of the babies during Sunday School. She loved carrying the toys back and forth from me to Mommy, and every time she carried the elephant and cheetah to me she would go, "Raar!" I love taking care of little kids.

In Her Words - Cynthia Dickens



Men, this may not really be up your alley, ya hear? All right. You've been warned! So, do you ever want to be "that girl"? Ok. I guess that was rather non-specific, 'cause "that girl" (no intended reference to the TV sitcom of a bygone era!) is probably different for all of us ladies. And we probably have several different versions of her, depending on the day and the circumstances. LOL! But right now I'm thinking of that girl in the made-for-TV movie who's sassy but in a friendly kind of way and who's surrounded by people who return her banter with ease (no confused looks or awkward silences in this fantasy!) while inspiring and supporting her at every turn. She runs into insurmountable problems but with only a hint of lip-chewing hesitation decides that love and/or friendship will carry her through

everything. Then she sets her flawless face in adorable determination and, after a few semi-ambiguous, Little-Red-Hen-worthy montages (and maybe a miraculous, save-the-day discovery), ultimately resolves everyone's problems including her own! Roll credits!

Ah, yes! The happily ever after syndrome. I'm an unabashed devotee - no desire for a cure, thank you! My reasoning is that there's a distinct lack of happily ever afters in real life; so when I sit down to relax, I don't want to watch angst-driven fictional characters or the manufactured drama of reality shows. My husband and sons laugh and shake their heads pityingly at me; because mostly, I want fluff - essentially, the mental equivalent of cotton candy. (No, I can't sustain my life on it, but shucks ... if I'm trying to sustain my life on moments of relaxation via the entertainment industry, I have greater problems that should be addressed!)

The good thing is that, while it's true that the movie or book version of happily ever afters are close to nonexistent in everyday life, anyone who's put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ can be absolutely sure that they are headed for a HEA. We may walk through an awful lot of stinky, sin-cursed world to get there. We will definitely find ourselves in situations - more-often-than-not of our own sinful making - that make it hard to remember what awaits us. Others may not understand why and may even mock us because our view never wavers from some "fairy tale" (translate "Biblical") promise of the future. But our happily ever after can't be lost. It's completely paid for and eternally settled ... and is free of semi-ambiguous, plot-advancing montages. ;) We don't get the easy-out of a montage but instead get to/have to walk every step and make choices about every action and word. But one day, I'm going to (figuratively, of course) ride off into the stunningly beautiful sunset while the music builds to a crescendo! :D And when the credits on my life roll, the only One listed as having done anything good will be the Giver of eternal happily ever afters.

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