

Dickens

Digest

June/July 2020

Holding Fast

Hebrews 4:14, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."

We are living in very interesting times, and in these times it is important that we remember to hold fast to the promises and doctrines of the Word of God. We have been watching the news from the States and we know that many of you are dealing with difficult circumstances, but we are so thankful that you all have been faithful to pray for us and continue to support us. Brazil is experiencing increasing cases of Covid and especially here in the interior this has been our reality. Thankfully our family is healthy and God is protecting us and blessing us. Church services continue to be done over Zoom and Facebook, but we have been able to have separate Sunday School classes for the Adults, Teens and Children. Our Thursday evening Bible study is well "attended" online reaching as far as Brazilians in the States. Morgan has continued the online Junior Church every Saturday night even expressing how much he has grown to love all the little ones to whom he has been privileged to minister and is

praying daily for the Lord to open their hearts to salvation. Cynthia has been trying something new with Zoom ladies meetings every two weeks and has been having an excellent response. Most Saturday evenings we men are sitting around here until 10 waiting for the ladies to finish. A little more than a year ago, our landlord asked us to move out and after much looking and praying we began renting and moved into what is known here as a "chácara". The house is amazing, and there is much land. We have enjoyed every day here, but we have prayed about how the Lord would want us to use it. Covid came to town and everything locked down, but the Lord opened a door. On our very large front porch, we have been able to hold open air services on Sunday nights with increasing attendance each week. Our folks have missed the fellowship so this ministry opportunity has been met with great enthusiasm. Also, with the talents of our folks and the addition of the Smothers Family, we have been able to begin a small "orchestra". We are hopeful that "holding fast" to the ministry God has given us will reap eternal fruit here in the interior of Brazil even in the midst of so much change going on all around

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Reopening of Brazil
- ◆ Protection from Covid19
- ◆ Open air/online services
- ◆ Evangelism, discipleship in changing dynamics
- ◆ Smothers Family Language Training
- ◆ Church families/couples



In Other News

As much change as we see around us and back there in the States, the constant blessing of our children amazes us each day. Morgan has finished his first semester of Bible Institute here and is excited about all that the Lord has allowed him to do in ministry here. He would like prayer for the English classes he is starting to teach as a means of income and paying for his Institute training. Aydan continues with 11th grade and is praying about the Lord's direction in his life. He is a tremendous help in his quiet manner. Daniella is finishing up 9th grade and has become quite the cook as she assists Cynthia. Abigail is finishing 7th grade and loves to help take care of our dogs and cats (especially the kittens). They are always ready and willing to sing, teach, help in any way possible. Cynthia is still adapting to changing diet as she gets better from her health problems last year, but she is always my right arm in everything here in the ministry. God is good!



Kidz Korner - Abigail

Quarantined on the Mission Field

Quarantine in our home is not very different from normal day life. We are in the house pretty much all the time. Even though we are in the house, interesting things do happen. For example, the "wild" cat outside had a litter of kittens. Sadly most of the kittens died, but the one that did survive, was shown to us when it was young. We named the kitten Taz. Another thing that happened was that the man that lived up front moved away, leaving his corn patch. He said we could have it, so we have had a lot of good corn. We have been having open air services on our front porch. During the first one, I and my siblings sang a special. Now we have our own small orchestra. I am actually kind of enjoying quarantine. I have also read some very good books by Francena H. Arnold. The two books are Not My Will and The Light in My Window. I enjoyed these books, and I want other people to enjoy them too.

In Her Words - Cynthia Dickens



As many Christians are, in their day to day ministries, Joel and I are frequently called upon for resolution of problems, counsel in difficulties, and opinion regarding the right or wrong of a situation.

Psalms 19:13

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

The Lord has recently laid the following prayer on my heart ...

Lord, help me with my assumptions and biases, not allowing myself to fall prey to stubbornness in favor of either "side" presented to me by others. May I side only with You, Father. May I work to change my own perceptions, words, and actions to align only with Your holy Word and not my own fears, opinions, or rights. Help me both to humbly accept that others may not understand and, even so, to give all I am in the pursuit of upholding Your cause above any other. In whatever situation you place me, please, keep me from selfishly dishonoring Your name. May the ENTIRETY of Your example, Jesus Christ - and not just the parts that serve my purpose in a given moment - be the pattern for my behavior.

Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Personal Contact Info:
Joel and Cynthia Dickens
CP 139
Belo Jardim, PE 55155-970
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