

# Dickens Digest February 2026

## A Time for Every Season

We all know the truth of this statement from King Solomon, inspired by God. I have to admit I'm stealing the thought from Morgan and the prayer letter that he sent out recently, but then we are reminded of something else Solomon wrote, "...and there is no new thing under the sun."

We have already had a very busy new year with a lot of activity both in the church here and with our family.

It all began making preparations for the arrival of my pastor Scott Baxley and his visit with his wife Ms. Samantha and one of their daughters, Lily. They came to attend Morgan's graduation from his internship and then spend a few days with us and the church here. What a blessing! We took three cars and 16 people and it

was a riot! The three days of preaching and fellowship were such a blessing

and challenge with 90 people from 12 churches at CTMBC (the training center). Pr. Ray Haskett (Calvary Baptist, Colonial Heights, VA) as well as my pastor Scott Baxley (Roanoke Island Baptist, Manteo, NC) preached the services and graduation. After the graduation we returned home and spent the next few days with our pastor and family.



Our church people got the chance to spend time with them at a traditional Brazilian bbq and then we also got to celebrate the Lord's Supper with them. Our people always enjoy getting to meet those who have prayed for and supported us. In one moment, one of our young people asked me to sit down with pastor and translate for her. She basically just wanted to look him in the eye and thank him for being our pastor and sending us to Brazil because as she said it, "If you hadn't sent Pr. Joel and his family to Brazil, if you didn't pray for and support his family, I wouldn't know Jesus." (Try translating that without crying buckets!) This young lady is one of the young people who is such a blessing to our church. Along with our children, the Lord is raising up a group of active young people who want to serve the Lord and reach others with the Gospel! Talk about bringing life to the congregation! Shortly after pastor returned home, I was able to travel with Morgan and make a final visit with CTMBC to the churches that have been supporting the training center. God is always so good to allow us to be involved in the ministry in so many ways, but watching young people get excited about the ministry is always such an encouragement! Please be praying for the training center and that the Lord will send more young people. Pray for the young people of our church here as they are the present and the future.

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Morgan and his future
- Pray for CTMBC
- Pray for our church here in Belo Jardim, discipleship of new converts
- Pray for building as a new opportunity has appeared.
- Pray for the new congregations we are helping.
- Pray for the Lord to lead our kids.



## In Other News

Well, Morgan is back home for a short season! We are so proud of him and what the Lord is doing in his life. He has finished another step in his journey to returning to Brazil as a missionary and will most likely be headed back to the states to work with our home church RIBC and prepare for deputation. For now WWNTBM is continuing to have him as an associate missionary and handling any support or gifts that would be given on his behalf. He is beginning to do some translation and consulting work here and trying to get the funds together by April so that before May he can get back to the US and take his next steps. The Lord has brought a wonderful young lady into his life and we are praying for them both to follow the Lord and His leading. Aydan has finished his Bible institute studies and is working for a local company. He plans to return to the states as soon as he can and continue serving the Lord. Daniella is in her third year of Bible institute and is loving every minute of serving God here in the church. Abigail is going to be taking some classes in the Bible institute and continuing to serve with us for now. Please pray for each of them. Cynthia is my right arm and support in every way. Please pray for her continued health as every day she does her thing without complaining even though I know it's not easy (she's got to put up with me). I do know that having Ms. Samantha here for a few days was a tremendous blessing!

My husband bought me flowers recently. He knows I don't need them. He even knows that, if he asked me, I would tell him that I don't want them ... and I would mean it. I can recite - and have done so - a list of reasons why buying me flowers is not my first choice for a gift. That list of reasons does NOT include "I don't like flowers." Instead, it has points such as "They don't last long enough to justify the cost" (and they don't!) and "We could use that money for something else" (and we could!) and "The cat will just knock them over" (past performance is evidence of this!). And I know that, in the face of his desire to get me flowers frequently, he restrains himself from doing so.

Still, he bought me flowers recently. While I am not him and certainly do not think like he does, I think that part of why he insists on buying me flowers sometimes is because he likes to see me relish the feel of the soft petals, to notice me stopping to enjoy their fragrance from time to time, to hear me exclaim over the vibrant colors. All of those things bring me joy.

And as He is wont to do, God also uses the quick-to-wilt, costly, temptation-to-the-cat flowers to remind me of truths from His Word. I will not attempt to detail all of them here – after all, I am known in this household for being an exceedingly "long-winded" writer and am attempting to break the habit – LOL! So I'll stick with the obvious fact that, just as my husband, at times, gives me things that I may think I don't want or need, my loving Lord and Savior does the same. And the things that God places in my life, against my will and reasoning, may not be as pretty outwardly as the lovely flowers on my table. However, His Word assures me that they can work together for good (Rom. 8:28), if I let Him mold and shape me through them. He knows that, if I submit to His plan, the day will come when each and every thing He gives to me – no matter how unsatisfactory or down-right HARD they are when they first arrive – will **soften** my stubborn heart, will make my life **fragrant** for Him, and will produce a **vibrance** in me that none of my own goals could have.

My husband loves me beautifully and buys me flowers that he knows don't align with my stated desires and plans; because despite my protests, he sees the potential for joy.

My Lord loves me even more beautifully and, not only gives me things outside of my desires and plans, but also gently leads me and comforts me through that which I would protest; because He sees the potential for joy – both mine and His.

Psalm 16:5-11



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Joel preaching for a national pastor and his church on its anniversary.



Pastors and interns helping CTMBC



Morgan can attest that training for the ministry takes many forms.



Some of the men Morgan was able to lead to Christ and minister to at CTMBC.



The young people being led by Aydan.



Morgan received his certificate of completion at CTMBC from Pr. Haskett.



Always a blessing to have everyone home at Christmas!



Joel and Pr. Baxley have the same birthday, so everyone thought it appropriate to celebrate Brazilian style!



What a blessing to have Pr. Baxley, Ms. Samantha and Lily here for a visit!



God sent rain at just the right time!



Holding a new church baby. Cynthia's happy place!