

Dickens Digest

August 2026

Transitions

So I've written this prayer letter three times and every time something changes. All of us go through transitions in our lives and ministries. Children grow up and move out. God moves us from one ministry to another. Loved ones pass away. People leave the church or ministry. Well it appears that the Lord may be making a major transition in our family and ministry. In September we will be returning to the states for a short furlough. We hope to be able to visit with as many of our supporting churches as possible, but we will be returning to the field in February and most likely be moving to Petrolina over the course of the next year. When we began the ministry here in Belo Jardim we knew that the Lord would not have us here forever, but we didn't know how long we would be here. For the last 4 years we have been helping to establish the Calvary Baptist Ministry Training Center in Petrolina which is where Morgan was serving for the last two years. This last month, our ministry colleague James Nash lost his wife Hódes to cancer. Although we were saddened by her loss, we know that she "finished her course with joy"! However, due to this loss, after returning from the short furlough, we will be taking the lead of the CTMBC. We will still be church planting in and around Petrolina as we train young people for the ministry. There is a small congregation with a national worker leading

that we will be able to help. Some will ask, what about Belo Jardim? Well, when we began to talk with our people about our short furlough and the possibility of taking the lead of CTMBC, our people decided to take the lead and see their building built on the land that the church purchased some years ago! The first steps have been taken and God has given us a man to lead that construction. All indications are that the building may very well be built by the time we get back from our furlough. The next question will be, what about a national pastor? The men of the church have stepped up to lead in the preaching and teaching in our absence and I will be meeting with them virtually once a month to help them with decisions while we are away. Our prayer is that God raises up one of these men to lead the church. I recently was studying and praying about passages where Paul started churches and I was reminded about how many times that he began a church, but it did not have a "pastor" when he left it. In fact, many times he sent a man after, like Titus, to ordain pastors in the churches. God has been so faithful to us and we are excited and scared about the future. Let me apologize to all of you for not having sent a prayer letter in so long. That is my fault. We are so appreciative of all of your prayers and faithful financial support. Our pastor and home church are in favor of this transition. We ask that you pray for our trip, the church and these transitions.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for construction on church land
- Pray for James Nash loss of Hódes
- Pray for the men of the church
- Pray for lost souls we are evangelizing
- Pray for our children and their future
- Pray for a national pastor for the church here
- Pray for our health, especially Cynthia



In Other News

So...the transitions are probably going to be some of the biggest in our family. Morgan is already back in the states since April working with our home church RIBC and Pastor Baxley. He is loving this opportunity and is preparing to begin deputation to return to Brazil as soon as the Lord, our pastor, and our home church approve this. Aydan has for some time wanted to return to the states to work and build his life. He does not feel like he has been called to ministry, but fully intends to serve in whatever church God leads him to join as a member. Daniella has desired for a long time to study nursing and she will be praying about and seeking the Lord's will about whether or not she will stay in the States. Abigail is seeking the Lord's will about her future. Now, Cynthia and I are, also, praying about whether the girls will stay in the States or return with us; and both of them are willing to return if I feel it is the Lord's will. So Cynthia and I may be returning to Brazil with an empty nest, or possibly with the girls. The Lord will lead us in this and we are willing to follow Him whichever way that may go. No matter what, it will be a huge change for our family, however any transition done in the Lord's will is blessed by Him. Please, be in prayer for our family, especially our children as they seek the Lord's will for their lives. We're praying for just that.

In Her Words - Cynthia Dickens

Thankful. Numerous times in my life, thus far, God has poignantly reminded me of the need to be thankful - yes, to others but most especially to Him. Some of those times have been immediate bursts of ecstatic gratitude. Some have been delayed as, looking back, I can clearly see His hand, although in that moment gone by, my gratitude glasses were clouded by human worry. Some reminders have come in the darkest moments I've experienced. And let's be frank ... those are hard times in which to be thankful. But I can testify to the beautiful comfort that Biblical thankfulness supplies, even as the tears flow.

Well, this brief thought is getting a little heavier than I planned! However, something that has consistently though my life, and once again recently, brought me such comforting thankfulness is an everyday thing - or it should be! And it is something (that will lead to some other things) for which I can never thank Him enough.

The first and foremost is God's precious Word, the Bible. There are not enough words in any tongue, nor enough time in any earthly life to fully and rightly appreciate the truth of God's perfect Word. That is one reason I cannot go a day without being IN it, allowing it to nourish me, guide me, protect me, console and correct me. One of my favorite chapters is Psalm 119; and God never fails to use it in my heart, mind, and life.

The second is the godly heritage that pointed me toward thankfulness for that Holy Word. Reading a recent memory written by my aunt about my grandmother and her love for the Bible reminded me of my own mama and how I remember the deep dependence on God's Word that she herself lived and sought to instill in me. Both of these women faced things that only God knew the full extent of and that only He walked through with them. But neither neglected gratitude even when others may have struggled to see anything meriting praise. What the Lord gave me in their example is treasure of incredible worth, because it did foster in me a love for God's Word that I only long to deepen and that I pray will be part of my children's lives, as well.

Truly, I could not begin to finalize a list of things for which I am thankful - from things that God has done to things that I know He has yet to do. So many nights are spent thanking God until I fall asleep, and never have I run out of praises! He's just that merciful and gloriously abundant toward His children! May the Bible always be to me as Job specifically described (and my mama and grandma exemplified), "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12b)



My mama, reading from the Bible to my daughter Daniella the day after she was born



My Grandma, reading from and leaning on that which sustained her

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Cynthia with a new church baby.



Men praying over Morgan before his return to the states.



Praising the Lord for church building construction to begin!



Teens presenting an offering to CTMBC!



Joel, speaking to a group of students in a local school.



Joel, Morgan and Aydan singing a special in church!



Joel preaching at a missions conference



Youth meeting



Mens Retreat 2026 - Noble Men like Bereans



Pastors at a Bible conference in Salvador



Supporting church purchased violins for our young people. They have begun lessons



Baptism of Geisiane.