

Dickens Digest January 2024



Prayer Requests

- Pray the church here
- Pray for new converts
- Pray for Bible studies
- Pray for Morgan and CTMBC
- Pray for Aydan in Bible Institute
- Pray for Daniella - nursing
- Pray for - school
- Pray for the permanent building
- Pray for our health

Return on Investment

Proverbs 22: 6. Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

The night of December 16th, I stood up from a table where I sat with the faculty of the Bible institute here in Brazil and handed my son Morgan his diploma for completing his theology degree. As we hugged and I cried it began to dawn on me that the greatest work that God could accomplish

through our ministry would be watching God work on the next generation! As Morgan begins his two year internship with our missionary colleague James Nash some 300 miles from home, we are beginning to see the "return on our (and your) investment." Our children are beginning to leave home and begin their lives, deciding what God wants them to do, but what a joy it is to see a desire in each of their hearts to serve the Lord! We have been so busy since September that Cynthia has said she is gonna take me at my word and give her two weeks off. Of course, she is charging interest.

In September, the boys spent almost a week with me in Salvador for the Bible conference that I attend each year and it was apropos that the theme was "Israel". Of course no one could know what



would happen a month later. Aydan and I took Daniella on an almost 600 mile roadtrip to Teresina so that she could spend the next two months helping Noel Smothers while her husband Joel was in the states. God was miraculously good to us



because the transmission on the car failed as we rolled up the driveway as soon as we got back home. Thankfully, not only was the new transmission taken care of quickly, but the Lord provided the needed funds before it broke down. October began slowly enough, but ramped up quickly as I made a trip to Petrolina to move Morgan and meet about the CTMBC (Calvary Baptist Ministry Training Center) which will begin to operate January 15th. The best part was at the end of the month, Pastor Dan MacAvoy and his wife Janice from Hanover Baptist Church came to spend a few days with us. What a tremendous time! Their desire to try to communicate in



Portuguese to our people opened several doors for evangelism and brought much laughter as Pastor MacAvoy tried to pronounce the Portuguese word for "laugh". He sounded like a cat with a hairball, but everyone loved it!

In November, I administered a wedding ceremony for a young lady who as a young teenager got saved in the work here! Just before Thanksgiving, I made the 600 mile trip to Teresina to pick up Daniella, but this time I went by bus. Daniella loved her time with Noel, but was thrilled to get home. She graduated from Abeka Academy in December and is still wanting to study nursing. Pray for her and us about that.

December began with my trip of 500 miles for the graduation of our final group from the Bible institute in the interior. Now, the focus will be on the CTMBC and hopefully drawing young people from the interior to the training center. Then, as mentioned above, Cynthia, the girls and I made the 400 mile trip to Salvador for Morgan's graduation. We'll make that trip again in two years for Aydan. It is such a joy to watch the Lord work in the lives of our children as He draws them closer to His will for their lives as they obey Him.



Church News

The end of the year is always lean (where church attendance is concerned) as vacations begin and people begin to travel to visit their families for the holidays. This year was especially that way, as viruses have seemed to persist in our part of Brazil. Almost every week we have had families out sick. However, the Lord continues to work. During the week of the MacAvoy's visit, three young men agreed to begin Bible studies. None of them are saved, but they are interested in Bible study which we should begin soon. Please pray for Lucas, Pedro and

Gustavo. We also had a young lady, Emily, make a profession of faith after church on a Sunday night. Cynthia has begun discipleship with her. At the end of the year, a family which has been spiritually distant for most of the last year is showing desire to get right with the Lord. Then just this past week, we had a promising visit with a backslidden church member who knows she needs to get right with the Lord and is wanting to know what steps to take to make that happen. We had the privilege to share the gospel with her boyfriend's daughter who seems to be curious about the Lord.

We have been praying about what we would do with children's church since Morgan left for Petrolina, and the Lord gave us His answer. Daniella felt the Lord leading her to take it on with the help of another young lady in the church, Letícia. We need much prayer for a man to take and lead the church! It is difficult to find men willing to take a leadership role in ministry, but we know God has His man for this work. God has begun to work in the hearts of some who have been backslidden and we praise Him for it! This new year 2024 has provided many new doors and hopes for the ministry here in Belo Jardim and in other parts of Brazil.

Please pray for the CTMBC (Calvary Baptist Ministry Training Center). The project is beginning to take shape and we will be heavily involved. Morgan, of course, is working there and in need of additional support. If you or anyone has any questions about it, you may get in touch with us at the contacts below. Please pray for the church to grow in spiritual maturity and number. Please pray for God's man to lead the work here.

Please pray for a permanent building for the church. The funds which several churches have provided remain set aside for that purpose as we pray for the Lord's guidance. God is at work, and we are following His lead.



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