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Sent Through The
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Dear Pastor and Church Friends,

Furlough..it's when a missionary leaves their field of service to report back to their churches and gain new support. Right now I am on my furlough leave. I always knew it would be a hard time being away from my field of service. That is because when a missionary leaves the United States, he/she becomes a part of another culture. Of course, they are never fully a part of the new culture. For example: I was in Mexico, but I was never fully Mexican. But the wonderful thing is, I was no longer fully American. I believe God makes a missionary somewhere in between ..never fully one thing. Perhaps that is because He wants us to be as Paul described it...*"I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."* (I Cor. 9:22b). So, being on furlough can be a bit difficult, because a missionary is no longer "all American," and they have formed relationships in another country and can greatly miss those friends. However, furlough can be a good thing for a missionary as well. I have enjoyed very much being in my supporting churches. It is so good to fellowship with those who have been supporting you! I have been able to have a good time with my supporting pastors and their families, and I have even met some pastors I did not previously know, who have taken over some of the churches. It is so very nice being able to fellowship with the members of the churches as well. That is why I wanted to take the time to say that furlough can be difficult..so that I can thank all of you, for making it a sweeter time of fellowship! Thank you all. The next time you have a missionary in your church don't be afraid to go up and talk to them. You never know how it might make their furlough seem brighter!



God bless you all,
Melisa Houston

P.S. The picture was taken at the Creation Museum in Kentucky. Jenni from Vandalia Baptist Temple in Ohio took me. Another example of great fellowship!

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