



The Smiths

Missionaries to Brazil



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

When at “home”, the missionary dreams about their host country.

When in their host country, the missionary dreams about their home country.

People will ask you “Isn’t it great to be home!” After you’ve had a few of your favourite foods, and visited with a few old friends, there are fewer reasons to stay “home”. You start to miss those things about your host country that you have come to love. Certain foods, friends and the ministry you are involved in.

Home is no longer home. And sadly, that other place on the mission field will never truly be home either. Home is both places, and neither place, at the same time. Home is everywhere. Home is nowhere.

Missionaries are forever caught between two worlds. They can no longer completely identify with the people whom they left behind in the home country nor with the people in their host country.

While here on earth, we will always feel a bit unsettled and out of place. Missionaries living away from the place where they grew up may experience that more than others. But someday, all those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will finally be home again.

Please pray for us as we leave our family and friends here in our “Home country” and return to Brazil, our “Host Country”. We are excited about getting back to our house, friends and the churches. We are sad to leave family behind, some with serious health problems. We know the Lord is able to take care of these things.

The final treatment for radiation was done on November 20th and Sharon received hugs and good wishes from the people that treated her. Two of the office ladies gave Sharon a snowman to remember them and the cold weather in Ohio. Bill talked with these ladies while Sharon had her treatments and they really enjoyed all his stories about Brazil. He helped cheer up the patients as they waited for their family doing treatment as well.

On December 09 the doctor told Sharon she was good with the cancer and could go back to Brazil but should have regular check-ups. We called the airlines to reschedule our flights. We had to purchase a round trip ticket for both of us to come out cheaper than using our return and paying the difference. One airline gave us half of the return back and the other airline gave us a full refund. **On December 18th we will be flying back to Brazil and hopefully arrive at our house in Boa Vista at 1:00pm on December 19th.**

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, financial gifts and all the words of encouragement. We are so thankful to everyone that has helped in some way or other during our time here in the States. May God bless each of you. Please keep us in your prayers and send emails or letters if you can.

Bill and Sharon