



My mom entered the room and said, "I don't want to want to have a Christmas gathering with family this year." It's so hard to see my beloved husband of almost 88 years lying in bed, without being able to speak or move and having to be content with an occasional blink of his eyes. I, as a son, have to confess, that I was never very sensitive to those who have already passed through or are experiencing such difficult situations. What I am learning is that I want to be with you mom and

dad in whatever situation you face. It's a real privilege to care for my dad until his encounter with God, who is waiting for him with open arms. Christmas is still Christmas. Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ depends on us. "I have come to give life and life in abundance." May you have a most blessed New Year and may God guide and help us to "count our days" in 2017. We love you, Wilson and Lori

*During this holiday season, we rejoice for the life we have in Christ and yet we realize that because of sin, our life here on earth is temporary and at times, filled with heartache, trials and suffering. We are on furlough in south Brazil and have been living in a small downstairs apartment at Wilson's folk's house together with Wilson's dad who has been bedridden for close to three months now and in need of round the clock care. His mom is staying in their apartment upstairs.*



*At times like this you learn to appreciate the little things. Even though dad has minimal movement and can't speak, we appreciate his positive spirit along the way and his willingness to help in small ways like lifting his arm some. We are so thankful for dad's hospital bed and a special blow up mattress that helps diminish the chance of bed sores. We are grateful for visits of encouragement from health workers and for those who have brought diapers and have lovingly offered help in other ways. How we praise God that dad has no need of any kind of pain medicines for now and sleeps so soundly and peacefully.*

*We had hoped to visit supporters and supporting churches as well during our stay, but God's ways are not our ways. We consider it a real privilege to care for Udo. Wilson helps administer medicines and feed his dad through a feeding tube four times a day. We all help turn him every 2-3 hours, give baths, change diapers and change bedding almost daily. We don't know when God will call him home and we wanted to have the opportunity of spending time with dad and share in caring for him. Wilson's siblings were already giving dad full time care for a month before our arrival and we also wanted to give them some time to renew their strength, get caught up on their other responsibilities and have family time during the holidays. Even so, Wilson's sisters often come to visit and stay with dad enabling us to have a few family outings of our own. (Short trips to the beach and walks).*



*What a tremendous blessing to have Ben, Jessica and our grandson, Lucas, here! Ben has been working hard each day on learning Portuguese with Jessica's help while Wilson and I have the joy of being grandparents and watching Lucas! ☺ They are currently staying downstairs close to us in the front part of Wilson's folk's home. Jessica is a heaven sent. She is a nurse and we praise God for her help and orientation in caring for Wilson's dad. When we head back to the Amazon in a few short weeks, Jessica and Ben have offered to move into the apartment and continue caring for and watching over Dad full time from evening until morning when Wilson's other siblings are able to come over to be with him.*

*While we haven't been able to get out much or visit anyone, family and friends have come often to visit Wilson's dad giving us the wonderful opportunity to touch base and spend some time with most of them.*

*Each evening we gather around Udo's bed and worship God through songs and prayer before settling him down for the night. Please pray for Wilson's mom. This has not been easy for her after spending 66 years together with the love of her life. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has served him faithfully most of her life. Her testimony was instrumental in leading all her children to love and serve God full time. One evening when she was still living in the apartment with dad (before our arrival) she woke up in the middle of the night to check on him. As she rounded the corner of her bedroom into the living room, she was shocked and somewhat terrified to see an angel sitting on the edge of dad's bed. The angel spoke to her heart telling her not to be afraid. What a tremendous comfort to know God's angels are watching over Dad!*



*It's been a delight to have the Spicer's here and Lucas has been the bright spot of our days. Lucas give us plenty of reasons to smile and laugh every day! He is so funny, inquisitive, FUN, smiley, and delightful!*

*One day Jessica and I were in the produce section of the supermarket selecting fruits while Lucas sat in his stroller. He managed to reach up and grab a raw green bean behind our backs. We found him contentedly chewing on it and asking for more! He LOVES fruits and veggies. He loves spending time inside a car, riding his little plastic trike, meandering around great grandma's garden, going for walks, playing on the beach, swimming in a blowup pool lovingly offered by Wilson's sister and husband and riding bikes with mom and dad...*



*their main means of transportation while here!*

*One of Lucas' favorite things is music. He often wakes up saying repeatedly "guys, guys, guys" (Piano Guys) and eats breakfast while watching their DVDs.*



*He absolutely loves to sing while playing the little one dollar plastic guitar he got for Christmas. He is already speaking*

*some in Portuguese and sometimes says the same word in both languages in the same phrase (like "water"/"água") to make sure we know what he's talking about!*



*We want to thank all of you for upholding us in prayer during this season in our lives. God is good and faithful, renewing our strength and giving us comfort from day to day. Middle of January we head back to Benjamin Constant and begin preparing for 4 mission trips, one each from February until May and to welcome Doug and Lydia Caudill and family the beginning of February.*

*As we face this New Year, we are ever reminded that we are here to glorify God with our lives and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations. God never said it would be easy. He guarantees trials and temptations, but also promises blessings and fulfillment to those who are faithful to Him. May we all be faithful to His calling! How thankful we are that God has allowed us to make this journey through life together with YOU! Keeping you in our prayers and sending our warmest wishes for a most blessed New Year... after all, it's been over 100 degrees these past few days! ☺*

### *Wilson and Lori*

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