



CAM INTERNATIONAL

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**PRAYER MAIL FROM
WENDELL AND DIANNE MERRITT**



**MEMORIES-From Dianne
February 16, 2006**

We were having company for dinner and I wanted to make a pie using a new recipe out of the cookbook that Crickett had given me for Christmas. While listening to a Spanish radio station to practice my Spanish, I

turned to my Reid Family Cookbook for a pie crust recipe. The cookbook was published a few years ago as a family remembrance of Mother's extended family. As I began to look through the well used and stained pages of my cookbook, my eyes scanned different recipes but my mind wandered back to over two years ago when Wendell and I were getting ready to leave for Guatemala. Space was limited and we moved with only what would fit in our suitcases – clothes and personal items, family photos, a few books but only one cookbook – the Reid Family Cookbook. It had been compiled by my cousins using recipes from scores of family members.

Over the past two years, these recipes, the tried and true family recipes, are the ones I've gone to in order to mix up something special for friends, teams or groups. However, this time, what stood out was the section on "Memories." Many family members had written of their memories of our parents and grandparents. How precious to read of family fun, trivia and a school in Potts Camp, Mississippi named after the Reid Family.

More was happening that afternoon than pie baking and recalling family memories. I wondered where the years had gone. Now many of those dear relatives, including my Dad have gone on to be with the Lord. Thank the Lord for memories that connect me with Daddy and precious others.

Also, I was letting go of this chapter in Guatemala. Again, we are about to pack suitcases and load them up with clothing, books, photos and memorabilia from here to return to Texas. Memories of our time in Guatemala permeated my thoughts – friendships developed, struggles, language school. Can our experiences help new and established missionaries? Where has the time gone? Why had I been so afraid to come to Guatemala? Fear of making the wrong decisions has been a thorn in my flesh most of my life. Living in Guatemala has been challenging at times but also one of the Lord's greatest blessings in my life. Every time I let go of fear and move toward trust in the Lord, I gain freedom.

Yet another chapter of our lives will begin as we return to Dallas to care for Mother. Amazingly so, we have some of the same questions returning to Dallas as we had in coming to Guatemala. We are excited about being close to family once again and at the same time, we wonder what God has in store for us. One thing is certain, the Lord promises to guide us if we seek Him.

**EXCERPT FROM OUR EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENT
February 2, 2006**

We were stretched in many ways during 2005, experienced God's grace and protection here in Guatemala and are so thankful for the opportunity to serve cross-culturally.

Now the Lord is moving us again – back to Dallas to care for Dianne's mother, Faye, who is in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Last year was especially difficult for Faye and now we as a family have more understanding of why it was so difficult. At this time, she doesn't need specialized care. However, she can't live alone so she will move into our home in Dallas. We are thankful!

We will transition from CAM Guatemala pastoral care to pastoral care throughout the CAM fields and be based from the mission center in Dallas. God has been gracious to us in changing our location back to our roots in Dallas but maintaining our ministry in pastoral care and staying on with CAM International.

PRAYER

Please pray for us as we have a lot to do. We expect to leave Guatemala during the last week of April and fly to Dallas around May 1.

- Many details in leaving Guatemala and heading to Texas.
- Details of CAM Fellowship Conference in Guatemala April 21-23.
- Transition for Dianne's mother, Faye, and our transition back home.

Thank you for your friendship and continued support!

Wendell and Dianne

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