

The McClures

Ministering to Mom



As Ann Janel's mother's health continues to decline we find ourselves in an unexpected phase of ministry. When we left for the field we imagined that "one day" we would face the choices of caring for aging parents. We never expected that day to come so soon.

April found our family worlds apart. Patrick continued his busy preaching and teaching schedule in the area churches of Campinas. Ann Janel and the kids spent the month in Tulsa taking Mrs. Schrader to cancer treatments every day. We decided to postpone their return trip to Brazil until the treatments in Tulsa were done.

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May brought dramatic changes to our lives. A few days into the month, the doctor recommended Hospice care. The truth finally sank in: unless God intervened, we could only make her comfortable until the end. On our sending pastor's recommendation, we indefinitely postponed Ann Janel's return trip. As quickly as possible, Patrick tied up the loose ends in Brazil, and joined the family in the States. The timing was definitely in God's hands: no sooner had Patrick arrived to help with the children, than Mrs. Schrader's care required more of Ann Janel's time.

Throughout *June* we have sadly watched Mrs. Schrader's health steadily decline. Even with Hospice, Ann Janel has had a crash course in caring for the terminally ill, spending 12-hour days with Mrs. Schrader. Patrick has his hands full learning to fill Mommy's shoes (and still be Daddy).

The Gift of Cancer

Despite the trials of this phase of ministry, we have been truly blessed with the unique experience of watching a godly person walk through "the valley of the shadow of death." During this time, we have learned through e-mails, letters and cards, personal visits, and numerous phone calls, just how extensive Mrs. Schrader's godly influence has been. Even in this difficult and sometimes painful death, her unique perspective is an example to us. She shared the following about her cancer, *"My suffering is a gift from God. I've been thinking recently I wouldn't have picked that (gift) box up. I would have picked something different. Yet, I'm coming to see my box is wrapped with tons of beautiful bows, bows of blessings."*



We are publishing a website to share Mrs. Schrader's testimony as well as keep friends and family updated on her condition. Visit: www.patrickmcclure.com



.....Ministering to the peoples of Brazil