

Dourados, Aug. 12, '74

Dear Ones,

Gary, Doris and family have just left, and before I tackle the house I thought I would sit down and let you know that we are all well, happy, and thinking of you whether it gets on paper or not.

The week with the Gary Gordons was very special. Even though we came back from our vacation together and the house was in great confusion, I just let it go and we sort of camped and had much fun together. Alan was in and out of course, but his just getting back meant that he did not have a back load of operated patients, so even he had more time than usual. He and Gary played tennis once while the kids hiked around the lake. Gary spoke at Rotary - getting to be a habit as he did same in Lavras, then he also spoke to my youth SS class, and then preached at our evening service. That is really using an asset to the fullest! We went out to the close-by farm where we had left Pooch, and enjoyed all the animals and activities. Pooch had dissapeared so we didn't get to see her. We had given her to the family at the farm, so there were no tears on her not being there. Doris painted a beautiful picture of our big paineira tree and gate, at least the part of the tree that was near the gate. It would take a very long shot view to get the top of the tree. The kids played a lot of games. Everyone we had got used I think. Evening short black-out Murder was popular too. I couldn't see how with all our piled up junk they could keep from breaking their necks, but they proved they are quite agile and there were no accidents. One time Sonia made out the slips putting murderer on all of them. Susan came to me for help and I helped her plan it. Then Doris told me that she was helping Carol! So we smelled a rat, and sure



enough, when the lights went out there were all sorts of murders being committed, screams all over the place, and then the lights went on and the gang was after Sonia. It's a good thing that she had made a great supper, so everyone forgave her. The idea was actually hatched between Sonia and Gary, who enjoyed watching the reaction. We all went to Erasmo Braga and enjoyed the children at recess time. Sonia invited all of us to a class period when they had Grêmio, - which consisted of poems and songs and such. For the last few minutes Gary spoke on satellites which seemed to interest the group.

Our youth group from Charlotte got scared off by the meningitis in SP and cancelled at the last minute. I am sure they were disappointed too. It sort of gave us a week to catch our breath, and get some much needed work done here. Eileen came while we were gone, and has written she won't be coming to work. We are sorry, but it is probably best. The hospital did fine while we were away, is running along very much the same as usual. No administrator in sight, Sr. Sebastião doing the honors. It begins to look like we won't be able to change much that is basic in the set up, and I wonder if simply our daily ministry is all that the Lord requires of us.

The girls start back to English school this afternoon. Sonia and Sylvia no longer qualify, being HS, so when Donald comes back I will have three students here at home. Donald is going to Campinas and Itabira with his family, and will return on the bus when they take off for the States in two weeks. The extra room at the end of our bedroom hall was finished while we were gone, and Sonia at last will have her little corner. It is pink with hot pink door! Donald will have Simone's blue room, and she will be in the yellow room with Sel-Sus. Much love,