

Getting to the Reunion - Planes, Trains, Buses & Automobiles by Sandra Gordon  
Friday, 27 December 1996

There I was - sitting in a car TRYING to get to Rio Verde. Arms, legs, and suitcases packed in equal amounts and layered one on top of the other. We stopped to borrow a car (Ufa! Finally some room for the appendages) - smiles, hugs and kisses with all my friends at the Fanstone-Pina "chacara". We stopped to buy groceries. We stopped at the baby-sitter's to leave two little boys, and their groceries, who weren't too sure about Mama and Papa Dettweiler taking off (smiles, hugs and kisses with my friends in Anapolis). Then we had to find our way through Goiania in the pouring rain with street-rivers and cars stalled here and there. We took a wrong turn and ended up in downtown! SIGH Finally found our way to BR 060 and Dad, Sonia, Steve and I were off (Mom, Sylvia, Ruth and the McKinnons had gone on in the van). It was too much joy to think of all the people converging on Rio Verde - I even let my car companions stop once after Goiania to use the bathroom. We arrived in Rio Verde at 7:30 PM. And it was even better than I had imagined - looking into the hotel foyer and seeing dozens of faces dear to my heart, that are usually spread over three continents, all together - AND LINED UP TO HUG ME! After the initial hugs and kisses, I started hearing bits and pieces of their stories of Getting-to-the-Reunion. Here are some of them:

Grandfather and Carol slept over at Gary and Doris' the night before leaving the States. They got up at 3:00 AM to start heading for the airport and a 7:40 AM flight through New York. Grandfather got on the plane, got a pillow, and slept the whole day. Zaida (Dr. Suhail Rahal's wife) met them in Brasilia and drove them three hours to her home in Goiania. The next morning (actually that morning) they all sat around the living room and Grandfather, among friends and the sights and smells of Brazil, sighed and smiled as if to say, "Yes - this is what I was missing in D.C." They were escorted in style to Rio Verde by a vehicle sent from the hospital and by Dr. Suhail and Zaida. No problem getting through Goiania. Lucky them.

In that same living room in Goiania sat Donald, Marianne, Prudence, Patience, Alan and Faby who arrived in Goiania airport via Sao Paulo. Marianne said she appreciated all the help on their flights - but a long flight is still long. The kids especially are all discombobulated routine-wise and having tummy problems. The six of them were shuttled in a Besta van to Rio Verde.

Sylvia and Ruth's adventure started earlier, on Sunday, December 22. They drove from Mooresville, North Carolina to Anderson, South Carolina; stayed for church; then on to Atlanta, Georgia; flew to Sao Paulo, sat outside and enjoyed the gorgeous day; flew to Brasilia where Aurora (Jair Barbosa's wife) and Alex met them at the airport and deposited them at the bus station. They knew the bus left at 15:30. They knew it was Viacao Goianesia. "Now - where is it we want to go to?" That was the biggest problem. Pirinopolis sounded closest to Pirineus and they were off. Three hours later they got to Corumba. Sylvia thinks "Oh no! We're in Mato Grosso now!" The driver set her straight. 19:30 they pulled into Pirinopolis and Dad and I were waiting. They weren't even late for dinner.

The Lemes and Silvas started out early the day after Christmas from Sao Paulo. They arrived in Uberlandia - where they had reserved rooms for the night - at 12:00 noon! How is this possible, you ask? Well, comments from Davi and Norm put some light on the matter:

Sandra - "So how fast does a new car go?"

Davi - "140 km/hr was no problem and anyway I had to keep up with those loucos varridos (crazy swept ones)"- Sergio and Jo.

Jo and Hosana left later that same day after picking up Norm and Elsie at Guarulhos airport in Sao Paulo. But caught up with the rest of the group in Uberlandia.

Norm - "We came at 90 miles an hour!"

The Doles and Winstons - packed into a Kombi - had an adventure. They left Sao Paulo late the 26th of December, slept in Ribeirao Preto, and then started out on a 12-hour leg on Friday. Other than having more people and luggage than space, having the gear shift act up, having a bicycle run into them, and running out of gas, the trip went fine and they arrived to much cheering from the rest of us.

Which left only Joy and Kevin. Where were they? Well - at 11:30 PM on Friday we got a call in our hotel room in Rio Verde. Sylvia answered sleepily. She grunted a few times, put the phone back, and said, "Sandra, Joy and Kevin are downstairs." What! Their plane was supposed to get into Brasilia at 9:30 PM. Did they get airlifted here? Ruth and I rushed down. No Joy, no Kevin. I ask the receptionist who explains that he put a call through from Joy to me. Back upstairs, I wake up Sylvia again and ask her exactly what she heard. Phone rings again. Joy. Ufa! They have been waiting at the Brasilia airport and no one met them. Uh, oh. The best laid plans... I call Rev. Eudoxio. Joy calls again. They take a taxi over to the bus station. Real taste of Brazilian culture, says Kevin, to sit on a duffel bag in a closed bus station at midnight with hundreds of people milling about. They got a bus to Goiania - the driver said maybe they would have a seat all the way - maybe not! Eudoxio himself sent someone to pick them up in Goiania and like a good Brazilian got them to Rio Verde in time for the 10:00 AM celebration. They were even smiling.

Let the games begin.

#### Friday, 27 December 1996 by Steve Dettweiler

Friday, December 27th, was the day set for arrivals at Rio Verde. Grandfather Gordon and company (Gary, Doris, and Carol Gordon) arrived from Goiania about 4:00 PM, the rest of us thereafter until 9:00 AM Saturday morning, when Joy and Kevin completed our number. Those who came earlier formed an impromptu receiving line in the lobby of the hotel for each surge of newcomers and many handshakes, kisses and abracos were joyfully exchanged. Various Rio Verde businesses and institutions had prepared a total of one hundred banners, strung across the streets for the occasion, with messages including:

DR. GORDON, O HOME DE DEUS

OBRIGADO, FAMILIA GORDON, PELA PRESENCA!

DR. GORDON, PARABENS PELO SEU CENTENARIO!

These banners were a treat to read as we came into town. At our destination, the Honorato Plaza Hotel, the thick clustering of banners was a good clue that we had arrived.

Saturday, 28 December 1996 by Sylvia Woodall

The clan gathered at breakfast their first morning in Rio Verde. Announcement was made that it is Titia and U. Dick's 33rd wedding anniversary! There was a beautiful spread on the table: at least four kinds of juice - cashew, pineapple, orange, watermelon. Several varieties of bread including paozinho, rosca, pao de queijo, sequilhos, and more. Also sliced fruit, ham and cheese and maybe more hot dishes. I can't remember. Coffee, of course - like nowhere else. Grandfather had a lovely room - flowers on the table, extra hangers for the 8 (!) suits ready for Grandfather's grand week-end appearances. The first was at 10:00 AM at the First Presbyterian Church, moderated by Rev. Eudoxio Junior. In order to get ready for that, several women in the family had appointments at beauty salons in the area. Ruth, Sandra, and Sonia had wonderful princess hairdos and others had hand or foot treatments. So - with everyone spiffy and ready for the TV cameras, we were off to the church. We walked in an informal procession that stretched from the hotel on the main street, down four blocks and over two. We processed into the church, family by family until Grandfather's grand entrance, which he did to a standing ovation. Grandfather and his four children and spouses sat on the dais behind a table draped in blue and gold, while a procession of dignitaries extolled the life and virtue of Donald (and Helen) Gordon. There was the minister of the local church, then the president of presbytery, then the president of synod, then the president of the Campinas Theological Seminary, representing the Moderator of the General Assembly of the IPB (Igreja Presbiteriana do Brasil). There were long-distance salutations from Edward Lane. There were presentations from the president of the Hospital Board, the Rio Verde Medical Association, and finally the presentation by the new mayor of Rio Verde, D. Nelci, accompanied by various government and ex-government officials, of the Pedro Ludovico Teixeira medal from the state of Goias. It is a 4-inch gold-plated medal on a green-and-yellow ribbon. One of those present was Mauro Borges Filho, grandson of Dr. Pedro. As Grandfather sat this morning (two days later) remembering the events of the week-end, he was especially touched by this medal and the love and thanks it represents.

Somewhere in that two hours Dr. Carlos Patricio spoke of the calling Dr. Gordon followed, and the need for each of us to respond to our call. Then Grandfather responded with a lovely speech in Portuguese thanking his co-workers in "o trabalho" (the work) especially Dr. Carlos, Maria Bueno (Monteiro) - a nurse, and Pedro Ludovico Teixeira, whom he met on the road to Rio Verde in 1936 when Dr. Pedro was governor of Goias.

The whole ceremony was extensively filmed by three TV stations, including a local station (Globo) who ran a 2-minute spot on that evening's news. [Editor's note: the cameras loved Ruth.] They showed early still photos of the hospital, then current footage of the hospital and the days' festivities.

After lunch and naps family members put on their Reunion T-shirts and congregated at the bust of Dr. Gordon in front of the hospital. Stan, Tim, and Sylvia organized the shoot to include Grandfather in as many family sub-groups as possible as well as the "whole clan" shot. A few members missed the event, but so many photos were taken during these days that everyone is sure to have been in at least one! A hospital photographer also accompanied us to every happening, and promises an album of photos when they are ready.

Uncle Gary and Titia Alma led a bilingual walking tour of Rio Verde highlights for family members, including a visit in the home of a councilman, whose house they were admiring for its architecture. Passersby recognized the family in their T-shirts, and even picked Gary out by name. Just before supper Norman and Elsie led a rehearsal for Sunday morning's program, choosing choruses in English that would also be familiar by tune to Brazilians.

After supper several Brazilian friends and adopted children, who'd been specially invited by the Rio Verde planning committee, came to sing and reminisce with the Gordons, including Geraldo and son, Guaraciaba and husband, Dr. Suhail and D. Zaida who have hosted Grandfather in Goiania for many years. Also Eunice, Alcita's sister. This was in the hotel's salao, a large room on the first floor where we met - which also provided an endless supply of mineral water, much needed in the December heat.

Well, then I went to sleep! After settling Grandfather with the nurse provided by the hospital - and choosing his clothes for the next day. Imagine, I was appointed Clothes Chairman for Grandfather for the week! They were desperate. Many have stepped in to help Grandfather with meals and walking help each part of the day. He is as gracious in accepting help as he always has been in giving. We send love, Sylvia for the family.

#### Sunday, 29 December 1996 by Alma D. Gordon

At 9:30 AM about 400 people were gathered for the Sunday School at the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Eudoxio opened the service and handed the program over to the Gordon family. Alan acted as MC, calling on Jo, Hosana, Elsie and Norman to lead us in English and Portuguese choruses. Then in turn each of the four Gordon children presented their families, then each chose songs and testimonies. Alan brought down the house by saying we would start with the "mais velha," which was Hope. "Oldest" translated to "old woman." Hope called up all her family and then someone whispered to her, "You forgot Joao!" These light moments seemed to help make all of us into a celebrating family. Gary presented his family and they sang "You are my Hiding Place." Donald spoke of each of us following God's call. We were all surprised by his good Portuguese. Alan (Gary) came next. After presentations, the five girls present, plus Ruth, sang "One." Alma told a couple of stories about Father and rejoiced in the Brazilian church becoming a sending church. Then we finished by singing "Familia." Alan announced that there would be TIKVA CD's available after the service. (We sold 15.) Then Alminha spoke on our spiritual address from Psalms 90-92, introduced her family, and they sang some songs. Stan spoke in good Portuguese about the Gordon children not only talking about Christianity, but living out a Christian life.

Father made a couple of quick visits to very old friends and we had a grand luncheon in the Hotel with about 30 doctors and their wives as guests. The Hotel did everything in their power to make us comfortable. Each meal was a carefully prepared, beautiful banquet, with colorful fruits and vegetables, a variety of hot dishes, and scrumptious desserts. Father's table always had foods he could eat. The hospital provided him with male nurses 24 hours a day. They were a welcome help to him and to all our family. The hospital paid the entire bill for all 47 of us not only to eat six meals and to stay those two

nights, but when we checked out of the hotel, none of us were allowed to pay individually for laundry, ironing, drinks, or whatever we took out of our room refrigerators. Wonderful hospitality and generosity.

Many doctors, their wives and other friends gathered at the old Gordon home (now the main office of the hospital's own health insurance program) to share the big birthday cake with Dr. Donald Gordon. The tiered cake with white icing and decorations had three candles mounted on large white plastic numbers - 100. While awaiting Dr. Gordon's arrival, Alan played the official Rio Verde song on his accordion and was surprised that, among the 60+ people present the only person that could sing the song with him was an 8-year-old girl. This year the song has been distributed in all the city schools, and school children are now learning it. Alan also played well-known hymns which many joined in singing, and asked the crowd to identify the country of origin of many Christmas songs he played. One doctor knew almost all of them. Nelci, the mayor, asked Alan to play a Brazilian Faustini Christmas carol, "Natal na Terra do Cafe" which he enjoyed doing.

By the time Dr. Gordon arrived, nearly 100 people had gathered. Alan thanked the doctors, the hospital board, administration, nurses and employees for a most hospitable welcome and stay for our 100th birthday celebration. Sylvia presented a gift to Rev. Eudoxio and his wife Lucia in the name of the family, for their untiring effort to meet our every need these three days. He in turn said that all this was possible only because of the support of the Hospital Board and administration. Everyone sang Happy Birthday and "Um Ano Mais de Vida." Dr. Gordon cut the cake and everyone was served cake and guarana. The video and picture-taking session continued the whole time with everyone wishing to have their picture taken with Dr. Gordon. After many good-byes, the family left in the bus which was waiting at the door.

#### Sunday, 29 December 1996, by Norman Gordon

"If you can't do it today, there's always tomorrow." Such a statement is valid for most days in our life, but not for Sunday, December 29, 1996, the final day in Rio Verde for our family celebration of Grandfather's birthday. Each of the waking 16 hours of this day were precious and would never come back another day.

It was difficult to prepare in one week-end for the first program of the day: a family presentation to the First Presbyterian Church of Rio Verde. Each of the four Gordon families gave a presentation, introducing their lives to the church and singing a few numbers. We did pretty darn well considering little practice (our corporate abundance of talent paid off!). After church, the family - all 50 of us - had a few hours to do too many things: take a tour of the hospital, eat lunch, and have a birthday party for Grandfather at his old house i.e. the new medical insurance plan office associated with the hospital (CRAM). At least a quorum of us attended all three at one time or another. That's a nice way of saying we got confused about which of the above was first, second, or third. It was a treat to see first-hand the legendary hospital where it all began. It didn't look that big out front, but once inside the courtyard area, its expansiveness was quite evident. A sign on one wall named the day care center: "Nucleo Educacional Helena Gordon."

I was late to the birthday party so I hung around the fringes of the crowd until I found an unlikely Gordon, Sr. - Aunt Hope, in this case - to give me a personal guided tour. She showed me her room, Titia's room, U. Alan's room and my own father's room - 40+ years ago, that is. It had four walls, a floor, a ceiling, and a window. But hey! It was HIS old room!

Once the scattered crowd re-grouped, we headed off to Adventure #2: Juriti (pronounced "Judy Chee"), not a woman's name, nor a city, nor even the name of a suburb, but a "Pousada" (retreat/resort center). After the bus got lost, the majority arrived at dusk. The Dole kombi, keeping in character, had a flat tire and rolled in about an hour later.

The facility here has a rustic milieu, but the accommodations by most accounts are fully adequate. There's a meeting hall, dining hall, game porch, pool, sauna, stables with horses, foosball table, ping-pong table, volleyball net, etc., along with little cottages for each family unit and wonderful hosts (Afonso and Edila Rodrigues). For the middle of nowhere, what more can you ask for?

Monday, 30 December 1996, by Doris Gordon

The first thing that woke me before dawn, was the awareness of the beautiful sound of silence. Next came the crowing of a distant rooster, then a cow's mesmerizing moo. Pretty soon the low notes of dove-like cooing continued the symphony warm-up, followed by the flutes and oboes of smaller birds. What a wonderful way to wake up! Next thing was a child's voice saying, "Daddy, where are you, Daddy?" - and I knew the human community was awakening. As you can see, we're in a pastoral setting, and this first day was given over to figuring out how to fit our heterogeneous group into it harmoniously.

Matthew was the first hero. He arose very early and drove to Goiania to fetch Jason Maxfield and Jennifer Fast, the all-important baby-sitters, whom I hope by now haven't wondered if they've bitten off more than they can chew. Some of the children are still off-schedule from jet lag. I heard Marcie talking to Simone about how the night went: "How did Evan do? I bet he did better than Gabriel!" The parents needed all the help they could get to adjust to this new setting. Fortunately we have lots of willing arms among us, Carol, Ruth and the Leme girls high among them, and there's a large play area in one of the buildings where the two sitters can keep the kids occupied in the morning. Matty and Simone told me the parents have planned a spectacular week for the sitters!

Norman, in spite of the intermittent rain (which we've had lots of) presided over the morning relay races on the gorgeous lawn. Watching grown-ups jump or waddle down the grass with a ball between their knees was quite hilarious. But that wasn't everyone's cup of tea. Under the roof of the very large patio/porch of the owner's house there was room for Skittles, ping-pong, and conversation lounging. Later on, a very large table was set up for making the very large (2000-piece) jig-saw puzzle that Alminha gave Dick for their 33rd anniversary (on Sunday). And lots of photos and other memorabilia can be displayed there. Sonia and Steve brought a variety of lovely crafts from Nigeria which they put out for our choosing. They brought some bowls made out of half-gourds, which looked somewhat like the large gourd hanging on a vine outside the dining area. It is called "coite" in Portuguese and is carved into dishes.

At 2:00 PM Gary gave a talk on finances to those who were eager for help in that subject. After that there was a wild happy time for young and older at the pools (one shallow, one deep). The older were "wild," while the youngsters had "assorted opinions" about life in the water. I had a ball watching them - and got in some nice swimming myself.

Feeding this assortment of creative and varied-age people is no easy task. Seating to everyone's satisfaction is still being worked out. But the food is quite delicious and the staff is anxious to be helpful. I'm sure we'll get at least some of the bugs worked out in a day or two!

The evening program of devotions between the children's early supper and the adults later one, and the after-supper program were planned and executed by the Doles. They were full and varied: a story for the children, singing, giving personal introductions, games, and Sana teaching two Arabic folk dances. U. Dick's famous monologues went over big.

By bedtime a lot had been fitted into this our first day (and I've only given you things from my perspective and left out a lot of details). I think we all appreciate how much work Helen and Sandra (and others) have put into bringing this reunion about, and are still putting into it.

Grandfather, with the help of many willing hands, seems to be enjoying immensely being here and is having rich conversations with individuals who take the time to sit and chat with him. That richness and this beautiful setting are equally part of God's handiwork.

#### Tim's Introduction to Dole's Evening Program (Monday, 30 December 1996)

"Welcome to Juriti '97, one of the very first international family reunions ever proposed, debated, scheduled and coordinated over the Internet. This is truly historic. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Sandra and Helena, the active support of Norm & Elsie and Uncle Alan & Aunt Alma, and the incredible generosity of Patron Saints like Grandfather, Uncle Gary & Aunt Doris, Uncle Alan & Aunt Alma and others, Juriti has succeeded in bringing together all eight of Donald & Helen Gordon's natural children and their spouses, and all but three of the 17 grandchildren.

"The only comparable event in Gordon history is, as we know, Lavras '74. Eighty-five percent of the original Lavras group is here in Juriti. But unfortunately, at least for us younger cousins, most of our memories from that gathering 22-1/2 years ago have long ago faded--with the notable exception, of course, of a certain gastrointestinal phenomenon that has been often recalled for us.

"Today we live in a world where, for all too many families, gatherings such as this could not produce much more than that: nausea. All around us we see families fracturing, marriages dissolving, the basic unit of society eroding. This is the context of this reunion and perhaps its strongest reason for being.

"We Gordons have each made tremendous efforts to come here this week--why? I think it's because Gordons believe in family. Family is fundamental to who we are--even more than for most. We Gordons

have had more than our share of addresses. Bounced around all too often, few of us have been able to keep up with childhood friends to give us that sense of continuity. For perhaps most of us, this family is the only group of people who can look back far and wide enough to know the twists and turns each of our lives has taken in the past few decades, to understand how we got to where we are today.

“That must never change. We must try to remain a family, as much as time and distance permit. Helping us do that now more than ever, of course, are recent developments in communications technology, which are merging radios, televisions, telephones and computers into a single ever-more-affordable, international multimedia communications unit. In the next hour or so, we’d like to tease your imagination into considering some of the possibilities such technology might create. We’d like to begin with a little song:

*SOMEWHERE OVER THE INTERNET*  
(sung to the tune of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”)

Chorus:        *Somewhere over the Internet “I love you”  
From our homes to the Gordon family worldwide  
Will help to keep us one.*

*This time around we typed up words about a family meeting in Brazil.  
The why, the when, the where, the how--we tackled all these questions by e-mail, e-mail.*

*With busy Gordons spreading out from here to there to Africa and China,  
Unless we find a way to keep up we’ll become another “family kinda,” “family sort of.”*

*Next time when we decide to gather all the Gordons in a single place,  
We’ll link our homes up to each other’s, play games, hug and catch-up face-to-face...  
...on the World Wide Web.”*

Tuesday, 31 December 1996 by Carol Sue Gordon

This morning’s activity was soccer - the one I had been most anticipating. As soon as Donald and Norman saw I had my kleats with me they teased me about cheating, because no one else had come *that* prepared. Norman called them my “weapons”. But had they known my lack of endurance they wouldn’t have been nearly as worried. I needed all the advantages I could get playing with all those guys. Ruth and I represented the females. The teams were Alan, Donald, Norman, Ruth and I against Davi, Jo, Stan, and Tim. I enjoyed about the first half hour, but soon after I started hyper-ventilating and had to quit. Ruth dropped out soon after me, but the fellows continued for about another hour ‘til lunch. I returned to the field about five minutes before the end and even though it had started raining (again), they were still at it full force having a “ball” (pardon the pun). By this time Sergio had joined in and I

stayed on the sidelines and got some photos. Then I went in for Sergio and my last efforts were spent defending the goal against Davi and Donald - not a chance. But it was a fun challenge.

While the soccer game was going on, there were others playing card games, working on the puzzle (a whopper of a puzzle) and playing ping-pong. Jason and Jennifer found a 3-foot snake, which the groundsman identified as a "jararacacu" and promptly killed.

For lunch, I sat with U. Alan, A. Alma, Joy, Kevin and Grandfather. Titia arranged for some "abacate com limao" specially prepared for Grandfather. As always, he offered it to the rest of the table and I gladly accepted it. Norman attempted several times to make announcements on the microphone there in the dining hall, but didn't get too far due to a poor connection in the sound system.

This afternoon's discussion was led by Marcia on "What's your love language?", "What's your temperament?" and "What's your color?". Several couples including Jennifer and Jason, our hired babysitters who are engaged, participated. Davi and Bete, newly married, discovered some new things about each other. I tried participating but had to sort of make up a fictitious "the guy". I left the discussion early, but from what I heard everyone got something out of it and enjoyed the topics. The discussion on "What's your love language?" focused on the following question and answers: "What says "I love you" to you the loudest? a) Quality time, b) Encouraging words, c) Physical touch, d) Gift-giving, or e) Love in action.

Norman and Donald decided something had to be done about the microphone, so while they worked on it (and successfully fixed it!), I took Prudence and Patience to see the birds. There are a couple of large cages near the dining hall that house several parrots of various sorts. They make an awful racket sometimes while we're eating dinner, but when we went to visit them up close, they hardly made a peep. The little kiddie playground is right near, so we wandered over to the swings and joined Jessica, Kayla, and Lia Carla. Lia took to holding and entertaining Patience, while Jessica invited Prudence to join her on the "glider"(two swings connected facing each other). They looked like the cutest pair and seemed to get along so well.

Then came the afternoon rainstorm. We seem to be getting them every day frequently, but they only last about ten minutes at most, so no one seems to mind too much. Alan and Faby and I were about to go to the meeting room for the Gary Gordons to plan tomorrow night's program when the rain came, so we dodged into their room and waited it out.

This afternoon I also enjoyed a nice swim in the pool with my parents. It was quite different from yesterday's sharks and minnows games. We just enjoyed some relaxing laps back and forth. Actually, Uncle Gary figured he swam about a kilometer total in laps.

At 4:00 PM, along with high tea, we were served pamonha (thick porridge made with corn). Three different kinds of pamonha were ordered from town and served to us: pamonha doce (sweet), pamonha com sal (with salt), and pamonha com linguica (with sausage). Most everyone chose the first two. It was a nice treat, but several people commented that it was a little more liquidy than what they preferred. After no one had chosen the third kind, one of the waiters brought some over to our table and insisted we try a little at least. It wasn't nearly as spicy as I had feared.

Devotions was led by the Alan Gordons. Uncle Alan of course played his accordion for some singing. Sylvia gathered the young children on the floor for a story from the Bible which she told from memory (about Gideon). Uncle Alan and Aunt Alma sang "He Touched Me," then Sonia and Steve did an excellent job of reciting from memory the chapter from Hebrews about faith (Hebrews 11). Sandra beautifully expressed her saudades for Susan and Dennis with words filled with tears and I think we all choked up a bit when we listened to one of Susan's songs on a tape.

The Alan Gordons also led tonight's program. Their theme was taken from the Jeopardy game with Kevin doing a fine job of MC-ing the whole thing. He gave out the answers while we were supposed to come up with the questions. Since they no doubt always have a large repertoire of songs, they creatively wove in various songs among biographies of each of the couples (plus Sandra). Uncle Alan and Aunt Alma sang one of their ol' standbys that is always beautiful to hear: "Morena." Ruth sang with all the sisters on each of the songs sung by "the Gordon girls." By now, she seems to know the songs pretty well.

Tonight was New Year's Eve. Just for the occasion, the cooks had prepared a late night feast (10:00 PM) with an incredible spread. There was roasted turkey decorated with fried pineapple slices and peach halves, pork roast also richly decorated, and baked ham with cloves. These meats were carved and served by three of the waiters. Besides that, there were several bowls filled with all kinds of nuts: pistachios, almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, and even roasted chestnuts! They also had farofa with prunes, rice, stroganoff, shoestring potatoes, potato salad (with apples!), two loaves of "panetone" (special Christmas bread with candied fruit), and dried apricots. A marvelous piece of work was a huge fruit salad served inside a carved watermelon. They served a special egg-white pudding for dessert. All this food was displayed beautifully on a center table from which we all served ourselves cafeteria-style. There were many candles on the serving table and one on each of our tables, which made the atmosphere even more beautiful. There was also a large fresh fruit display in a kiosk near the dining room which included peaches, grapes, plums, apples, nectarines, bananas, watermelon, etc. They really went all out for us. Before we ate, we all gathered in a big circle to ask the blessing. Helena insisted Sr. Afonso and D. Edila join in our circle, and all the waiters, too. Then we sang "Se Tu Presente" and then the Doxology in English. The four candles "1" "9" "9" "7" were lit and we sang "Auld Ling Syne" It was quite the festive occasion.

#### Alan Gordon Family Devotional and Program (Tuesday, 31 December 1996)

##### Devotional 7:00-7:30

3 (minutes) songs for children - Dad on accordion

3 Bible story - Sylvia

4 "He Touched Me" - Mom & Dad

7 Hebrews 11 recitation - Steve & Sonia

8 sharing time - Sandra

3 "Silence of God" - Susan & Dennis

closing prayer - Mom

2 “Jude’s Benediction” - everyone

30

Program 8:30-10:00

15 song “Happy Birthday” to Grandfather

tribute to Grandfather “Following in His Footsteps”- Steve, Kevin

3 Introduction of Jeopardy - Kevin (Alex)

Category: SISTERS for 100 Answer: TV Globo replay and Jerry Lewis

Question: What is sister humor?

8 sister humor - a highlight of the past 5 years (in Portuguese)

Sylvia speaks for Sandra; Sonia speaks for Simone; Sandra speaks for Joy

Simone speaks for Sylvia; Joy speaks for Sonia; song “Sisters” - Gordon sisters

Category: SISTERS for 200 Answer: Alan Gordon esposos

Question: What are the HOGS?

5 HOGS Vows - Steve, Matty, and Kevin

Category: SISTERS for 300 Answer: Simone’s special suffering

Question: What is Matty’s humor?

3 The King’s story - Matty

Category: SISTERS for 400 Answer: Combination of Michael J. Fox and Woodalls

Question: What are Woodalls’ future dreams?

5 “Sing to the Lord” plus Sylvia & Woody’s future dreams

Category: SISTERS for 500 Answer: Combination of Capt. Pickard and Dettweilers

Question: What are Dettweilers’ future dreams?

5 “Come Rejoice with Me” plus Sonia & Steve’s future dreams

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

Category: SISTERS for 200 Answer: Combination of Gene Rodenberry and the junior

Gordon Question: What are Sandra’s future dreams?

5 duet “Horizons” (Sandra & Sylvia) plus Sandra’s future dreams

Category: SISTERS for 400 Answer: Combination of Isaac Asimov and McKinnons

Question: What are McKinnons’ future dreams?

5 “One” plus Simone & Matty’s future dreams

Category: SISTERS for 600 Answer: Combination of Data and Deckers

Question: What are Deckers’ future dreams?

5 duet “Grow Old Along with Me” (Kevin & Joy) plus Joy & Kevin’s future dreams

Category: SISTERS for 800 Answer: Combination Arthur C Clarke and Elder Gordons

Question: What are Mom & Dad’s future dreams?

5 duet “Morena” (Mom & Dad) plus Mom & Dad’s future dreams

FINAL JEOPARDY

Answer: There are lots of Gordon Family Members in Brazil

Question: What is the reunion for Grandfather?

5 tribute to Grandfather (presentation of book)- Sandra

3 “Familia” - Gordon girls (everyone hold hands and join in at end)

72

Letter from Grandfather to Susan & Dennis Walters

Dear Susan and Dennis,

The people around you may not understand what you say, but they certainly will notice how you live. When I went into medicine, the influence in my life showed in how I treated my patients. China was talked about for missions. A missionary from China came to speak at our church in Hazardville, and I dreamed of going to China.

Suggestion for work from an older missionary:

1. Be honest in all financial matters.
2. Study the needs of the people and try to meet them.
3. Try to involve the local people.
4. Be flexible on secondary means of sharing the Gospel.

With lots of love,  
Grandfather

Wednesday, 1 January 1997, by Tim Dole

A new year! When the clock struck midnight, marking the dawn of 1997, a group of us were assembled with the owner of Pousada Jurití (Sr. Afonso) just outside the dining room area for the countdown, then boom, one of the waiters pulled the cork out of a bottle of champagne, and a few sound-and-light fireworks were shot up into the night sky, echoed by others from nearby fazendas. Sr. Afonso revealed that he and two Jurití waiters had just smoked their last cigarettes ever.

Back in the dining room area, Davi put on a CD of hick Brazilian country music, and before long the Silvas, led by Ana Lúcia's strong command of the lyrics, were belting out the words along with the singer. Jô found a waist-high bongo drum, whose beat soon contributed to the raucous celebration. A little later on, some American music was played, giving Norm a chance to groove the floor California-style. Jô then did some of his classic Michael Jackson impersonations. At one point, everyone present was shakin' and movin'--even shy types like Marcia and Elisabete.

Around 1am, nearly all had called it a night. As a consequence of the late night, a lot of the family, especially the younger no-children crowd, slept-in a little. By 10am or so, however, a volleyball game had been convened, with up to 9 players on each side. A passing rain cloud momentarily interrupted the game, but three full games were ultimately completed. At lunch, Norm took up the microphone and awarded Elsie the Top Athlete award for having served seven consecutive aces.

The after-lunch discussion was led by Uncle Gary on Microsoft head Bill Gates' latest book, The Road Ahead, which sketches out what the author believes the world could well look like in 25 years. Among other things, Gates suggests that communications technology will replace software as the fastest area of technological growth in the next decade or so, and that inventions such as phones, televisions, radios,

computers, faxes, and beepers will soon merge into single multimedia international communications units.

That afternoon, the hope-against-hope 2000-pieces-looking-nearly-all-alike puzzle crowd kept up their week-long project, while a good group gathered in the pool vicinity. Some took naps to recuperate from the New Year's celebrations. Carol, who had undertaken an all-night shift with Grandfather the night before, suddenly fell ill and took to her bedroom. Tim, Sana, Aunt Doris, and Sandra soon came to make a house call. When it came time to let the patient get some much-needed rest, Carol agreed to bid adieu to her guests on condition they return in half an hour. ☺

At devotions, Norm led the singing with the help of an overhead projector and a guitar slung over his shoulder. Alan then spoke, later joined by Faby, and they taught a song in Spanish. They ended by asking every one in the room to walk around and hug each other. After supper, there was a newlywed game and the Gary & Doris Gordons' evening program; parts of those two events are included below:

The Newlywed Game (after supper on Wednesday, 1 January 1997)

In honor of Matty & Simone McKinnon on their 5th anniversary

Questions for Husbands, answering for wives:

1. What is your wife's favorite color?

Norman: black/white

Tim: purple

Matty: turquoise

Elsie: black

Sana: purple

Simone: turquoise

2. What was the first thing you bought as a married couple?

Norman: a car wash

Tim: furniture

Matty: developing 7 rolls of wedding photos

Elsie: a microwave cart

Sana: a food processor

Simone: dinner

3. When is your wife most likely to study efficiently?

Norman: evening

Tim: evening

Matty: morning

Elsie: evening

Sana: evening

Simone: morning

Questions for Wives, answering for husbands:

1. What would your husband do first if he had a million dollars?

Elsie: pay off my loans

Sana: buy a computer

Simone: get a new roof

Norman: pay off loans

Tim: buy a computer

Matty: tithe

2. Would your husband rather have the job of Jacques Cousteau, Mel Gibson, or Tom Clancey?

Elsie: Mel Gibson

Sana: Tom Clancey

Norman: Mel Gibson

Tim: Tom Clancey

Simone: Jacques Cousteau

Matty: Jacques Cousteau

3. What was the first sporting event you attended as a couple?

Elsie: LA Dodgers baseball game

Norman: Intra-Mural sports at Fuller

Sana: Orioles vs. Redsox baseball game

Tim: Orioles vs. Redsox baseball game

Simone: baseball

Matty: baseball

### The Third Reunion - Year 2025

#### Script of Gary Gordon Evening Program read by Norman Wednesday, 1 January 1997

Prudence? Hey, this is Gabriel, you know, your cousin! OK - second cousin, third cousin, whatever! Sorry to have to call you on this old piece of silicon but my modem is an old year 2020 model and it keeps going down on me. I mean, I can't even fax three-dimensionally, believe it or not! Anyway, how's everything in Tibet? How many churches have you and your husband planted? Really? Your younger sister? Wow, guess that means Great Aunt Marianne has fifty-seven grandchildren now and counting! Listen: I've talked with most of the cousins - ya know, Logan, Ian, Evan, my two sisters in Zimbabwe, Ruth, Paul, Alan, Joel, Micah, and all the teenage cousins - and we're thinking about a reunion. No, I mean face to face! No, not on the image-gram, I mean in person! No, not interactive video, I mean where you pack your holographic equipment and get on a plane, you know, the kind you actually have to buy a ticket for? No, this isn't virtual reality - this is reality-reality! Look, I just want you talk it over with Patience and see if Uncle Donald can fund, I mean, find time to join us in between rocket launches of his new communication systems. Well, I know Uncle Kevin's the stockbroker, but he already paid all of our college tuitions. I don't want to bother him anymore! In '97? A reunion, really? 1897? Oh, 1997! I didn't know that: that must have been back when Grandfather was a young pup of 100 years old! At 128, it must seem like lightyears ago! Well, maybe you could do some research on the '97 reunion! Really? Some documentation? Well, send them over and we'll get Uncle Matty to pop them onto his silicon enhancer (that's what they used to use in the old days on those computers) so we can read them. What? Uncle Stan got an enhancer before he left the superintendent's position for his retirement? Great! Well, then send them on over now! Let's see - I think it's this button here!

#### Father & Mother

Let's see: 1997! Wow! I guess Great Uncle Gary and Great Aunt Doris got Great Grandfather to Brazil without a muscle reactivator! How in the world did they do that? Let's see what else we have on them . . .

#### Donald & Marianne

Oh, here we go: Uncle Donald and Aunt Marianne. This must have been before the days of Gordon Engineering, Inc. - gee, the only thing he had invented by that time was the GTB test box! Let's see what else we have on them . . .

#### Alan & Faby

Uncle Alan & Aunt Faby. This should be good: I bet you this is right out of the Cristo Es La Vida University files - or maybe they had to go back to El Tingo to find this stuff - I don't know! Let's see what else we have on them . . .

### Norm & Elsie

Look at this: Uncle Norm & Aunt Elsie BEFORE they had kids? What in the world was Uncle Norm doing before they had kids? He had to do something while Aunt Elsie was starting her Counseling center. Let's see what else we have on them . . .

### Thursday, 2 January 1997 by Joy Decker (and some help from her loving husband Kevin)

I woke up at 8:30, so don't ask me what the early birds were doing. Likely Grandfather was shaved and dressed by 6 am (or earlier), but I like to wake up with light, and with the shutters closed, it stays dark in the rooms way past daylight. After breakfast, Matty, Simone, Sylvia, Mom (Alma) and I played a rousing round of Rummikub. We watched Tim, Sana, and Titia ride off on horseback. They looked like they were having a good time, except Sana's horse headed toward the apartments and had to be turned around. They reappeared later and looked none worse for the wear, and Titia said she enjoyed riding by the river. I know Carol wanted to go, but she was secluded for most of the day in her room recovering from a bad case of stomach bug.

The sporting event of the day was Ultimate Frisbee, and most of the young men participated, plus our own female athlete, Elsie Gordon. They came back very hot and tired and jumped into the pool to cool off. Then they went back for some more. I couldn't see the field from where I was, relaxing on the game porch. Helena was gathering family information to put in U. Gary's compendium, especially the in-law data. Did you know that Kevin was born in the Panama Canal Zone?

What I remember about lunch is the strawberry meringue dessert - yum!

I cannot say that I remember any sun during the day, but I can definitely say there were periods without rain. But most of the time we have spent here it has been raining or at least sprinkling. It's been hard to get the clothes to dry - D. Edila has been given load after load of clothes to wash, and there is no dryer so they all have to be hung up. She had just finished hanging up all the clothes when it started raining again just before lunch, and she dashed off to rescue them from further dampness. About suppertime there were some dry clothes to be distributed, and she put them all out on a table so they could be claimed, since everyone's gets all mixed up in the process. Let's see, whose shirt is this? What size underwear do you wear? She looked at me with a grin and said, it's not very discreet, is it?

After lunch there was a discussion group about the Internet, which I attended but didn't pay much attention since my nose was in a book which I just couldn't put down. I'll let Kevin tell you about that. All I heard was "404", "Elvis year", and "Alpha geek".

The discussion was a loosely formatted roundtable led by Kevin. Lots of input was provided by Stan Winston, Tim Dole, and Uncle Gary. Kevin began with a brief history and after the first sentence was

stopped to explain terms. Archie, Jughead, Kermit, GUI, Browser, Arpanet, Darpanet, FTP, E-Mail, Snailmail, IRC, Telnet, Newsgroups, Netscape, Explorer, HTML, the Web, etc. All were explained and discussed. We finally finished up with a few humorous terms; 404 is a message number for a missing web page or a person that's missing the point; Elvis year is the year of something's major popularity (the Elvis Year for the Macarena was 1996); and AlphaGeek is the technical equivalent of the Alpha Wolf.

In the afternoon some of us enjoyed more games. We played Fonzie, and once the grid was drawn out to keep track of all the scores, we insisted that any new players sit in sequence after the last person on the grid so that we could add them and still go around in order. So we made Marcia change seats. Tim and Sana were heard to say they were leaving the next day and they hadn't talked to everyone yet!!

The Silvas and Lemes were in charge of devotions and the program - they acted out the story of the Good Samaritan, and A. Hope made a great priestess, with her nose in the air.

We had feijoada for dinner, with all the trimmings. Oranges and couve, etc.

The program was very creative. With a Brazilian theme, we sang the Hino Nacional with only a slight falter in the second verse when some people (OK, me too) started repeating the first verse. Jô was introduced as "the greatest athlete" and Sergio lent him his arms as Jô ate a banana, drank water without getting too much on himself, and even shaved (with a comb, so as not to be life-threatening). It was hilarious, and Kevin wasn't the only one laughing and laughing. The introductions were also very funny (see below). Helen and Jo sang a duet "Eu nasci so pra te amar" which was familiar to all of us as one Grandmother and Grandfather used to sing to each other. Helen did a good job of imitating Grandmother's mannerisms. Then we divided into two teams for a Tic-Tac-Toe game on Gordon Family trivia. The Silva's program concluded with a rousing Macareña dance which most young folks joined in.

The highlight of the day followed as Sr. Afonso had the bonfire lit (the rain let up enough to do so) and we had roasted marshmallows and s'mores and good fellowship around the fire. Sr. Afonso was heard to exclaim, "It is very strange to go through a whole week here with a full house without selling a single beer!"

Introduction of Silvas and Lemes read by Tim Dole during program (Thursday, 2 January 1997)

**Mr. John Silva:**

Born in Pernambuco, Brazil. Was convicted of Fishing in a Restricted Area named Juriti without a permit. Married to another convicted felon. At the time of his arrest he was at a family reunion. Is said to be a church pastor, where he actually enjoys his work. Church people love him and he is reported to be friendly, harmless, and dedicated to his work. According to family members, he will be retiring from his work at the end of '97. In prison, he demonstrates special interest in fishing. **NEXT!**

**Mrs. Helen Hope Gordon Silva**

Born in Lima, Peru. She is charged and convicted of deserting US territory, and starting and leading a gang called The Silvas. Married to the just mentioned pastor in 1958, with whom she had 4 children.

Started her life in Brazil, in 1929, where she lived until her college age when she went to attend Wesley College. She became a missionary to Brazil after college and worked as a teacher in Santa Helena, Goias, and later at JMC School in Jandira, SP for 6 years. Presently she is Unique Language Center's coordinator. Her hobbies are: swimming, walking and using her computer. **NEXT!**

**Sergio Leme**

Born in SP, Brazil. He is charged with beating people, of course that was in chess... but the judge didn't care and jailed him anyway. He's an Industrial Superintendent of Bardella, a large heavy machinery company. Father of 3 children. **NEXT!**

**Helena Gordon Leme**

Born in Campinas, Brazil, married to the last felon. She was convicted of knowingly and willfully neglecting to live in Uncle Gary and Aunt Doris' home. She teaches at college and owns her own school. **NEXT!**

**Ana Lidia Gordon Leme**

Born in Guarulhos, Brazil. Currently studying 7th grade, swimming, and English classes at Mom's school. She was charged and convicted of laughing at jokes that failed to be humorous. **NEXT!**

**Ivy Aline Gordon Leme**

Born in SP Brazil. Currently studying 5th grade, following her sister's steps with English class and swimming lessons. She was tried and found guilty of failing to make an "A" in one of her classes; the judge didn't find it significant that she had gotten an "A" in all of her other classes. **NEXT!**

**Lia Carla Gordon Leme**

Born in SP Brazil. Currently studying 3rd grade, also following the rest of the girls in her house. She was charged and convicted of willfully failing to eat all the food on her plate. **NEXT!**

**Susana Gordon Silva**

Born in Rio Verde, Brazil. Currently working as a nanny in Florida. Her hobbies are shopping, and going to the beach. Charges are currently pending against her for failing to attend the 1997 Gordon Reunion. **NEXT!**

**Jônatas Gordon Silva**

Born in SP, Brazil. The judge found him guilty of Failure to Get Married at a Reasonable Age; however, the judge has offered to suspend his sentence if he locates a suitable mate within the next two years. He currently works as a translator and purchaser at Bardella. His sentence was reduced slightly due to his active involvement in church activities, where he enjoys the church youth group very much. **NEXT!**

**Davi Gordon Silva**

Born in Campinas, Brazil. A few minutes following birth, he was charged and convicted of appropriating his father's facial features without proper consent. Currently works as a marketing supervisor at Price Waterhouse Consulting division. **NEXT!**

**Elisabete Rocha**

Born in São Paulo, Brazil. She was convicted of a Lack of Familiarity with the English language, but the prosecutor recommended leniency due to her expressed desire to take remedial courses. She is a pre-school teacher in SP and takes care of one of the other prisoners, Davi; due to the hardship of this task, the judge has cut her sentence in half.

Eu Nasci So Pra te Amar

duet sung by Helena and Jo Silva (Thursday, 2 January 1997)

Nasce a lua, nasce a estrela  
Pra no ceu alumia...

Chorus:

Todos nascem com destino  
Eu nasci so pra te ama  
Ai, ai, ai, ai...  
Eu nasci so pra te ama.

Nasce o tigre, nasce a fera  
Pra no sertao habita...

Nasce o cravo, nasce a rosa  
Pro jardim nos enfeita...

Tic-Tac-Toe Game on Gordon Family Trivia (Thursday, 2 January 1997)

MEN

Who of the Gordon men will turn 100 in the year 2058? (Donald Paul Gordon)  
How many medical doctors are there in the Gordon family? (3)

MUSIC

Which song, sung during family devotions, is Grandfather's favorite and has not been sung yet during this reunion? (Brave Daniel)  
What is the Gordon family's most popular table blessing? (Se Tu Presente)

HISTORY

How many family members were at the last reunion, in Lavras? (27)  
Who was the first adopted daughter of Donald and Helen Gordon? (Luci)

DATES

What is the wedding date of Donald and Helen Gordon? (November 1, 1924)  
On what date did Donald and Helen Gordon arrive in Rio Verde for the first time? (January, 1936)

### GEOGRAPHY

In how many states of Brazil have Donald and Helen Gordon lived? (4-Goiias, Bahia, Mato Grosso, Sao Paulo)

What is the only country of the world which all members of the Gordon family have been in? (Brazil)

### WOMEN

How many granddaughters and great granddaughters does Donald C. Gordon have? (18)

How many Helenas/Helens are there in the Gordon family? (6)

### TRAVEL

Who traveled by freighter with Grandmother and Grandfather from the U.S. to Brazil when they were five years old? (Helena Gordon Silva Leme)

What was the first car that Donald Gordon had in Brazil? (1935 Ford)

### COUPLES

How many couples in the Gordon family are missionaries? (8)

How many couples are in the Gordon family? (17)

### RIO VERDE

How many beds does the Evangelical Hospital of Rio Verde have? (347)

When did the largest number of the Gordon family assemble in one place? (December, 1996)

### Friday, 3 January 1997 by Alan David Gordon

Today was the last day of the Juriti retreat. The four families each sat at their own table for breakfast, using the last morning together to catch up on everything they hadn't yet talked about these four days here.

The morning sport was volleyball played mostly by the grandchildren except for energetic Uncle Alan who showed his youthful spirit in playing with the younger generation. Players included: Matty, Stan, Marcie, Kevin, Norman, Elsie, Davi, Jo, Donald, and myself. Most played barefoot and even bareback (to prevent their clothes from being colored by mud during dives for Stan's spikes).

Lunch was a special churrasco prepared by the house who all this week has done an all out effort to not only cater to our tastes but also to provide us with new and gourmet foods. (Faby found out that "exquisite" food in Portuguese means weird and not gostoso.) After lunch many diehard puzzle fans made an all-out effort to finish Uncle Dick's ship puzzle but to our dismay at the end of dinner U. Dick began to pack the puzzle which only lacked a couple hundred of the 2000 pieces.

The afternoon was filled with a talk by U. Gary on environmental ethics. Attendance was limited probably because everyone wanted to do last minute activities on their final day here. Swimming was

somewhat popular and the rain drove a group to the sauna where a spontaneous game of concentration began in the fog. Later to be followed by a new game of giraffes and elephants.

Later six of us invented a volleyball game in the pool: Stan, Kevin, Sergio, Davi, Jo, and myself. Even the rain didn't stop us there!

Devotions at 6:00 was led by Norman. We sang all the favorite songs of the week: Shine Jesus Shine, How Great Thou Art, Somos Uno, and Conoci un Grande Amigo. A steady rain began and we all hurried to the dining hall for our final dinner together. We formally thanked our gracious hosts, Afonso and Edila Rodrigues, and they received a gift of two of the Gordon reunion tee shirts. Faby received a birthday cake along with the traditional birthday greeting (in English). We took a small break and then began our final program called "open mike" which included the following:

Tom Lehrer's "The Elements" by Sandra

Carol finally got to share her personal report since she was sick during our night to give the program.

Norman sang a song he wrote called "God came down."

Stan gave thanks to all for the week.

Then even Grandfather insisted on standing up, coming up front to the mike, and thanking all for the week together.

Helen was presented with a gift of Candy Canes for all her efforts in planning the reunion.

Donald suggested that we think about the next reunion when the fourth generation is in the teens, about fifteen years from now. He would also like to see a Gordon Web Page.

I shared a story from Fenwick Island about how a waitress couldn't believe we all lived together in the same cottage for two weeks.

Stan complemented my story by stating that a family united before God is an unconquerable fortress.

Davi shared how he opens his E-mail at work and shares about our family with many of his co-laborers who show interest.

Elsie had to personally and publicly thank Norman, Sandra, and Helen for their work. It was a sacrifice on her part to let Norman work on the tee shirts.

Joy wanted to start "Singing in the Rain" but couldn't find a supporting group.

Carol reminded us that the past cannot be changed but must be remembered with a smile emphasizing all the pleasant events. Grandfather inspired that concept.

Stan challenged the older generation to live life with plans and goals until it's really over.

Gary added the example of Grandfather's life that he did just that.

Dick thanked everyone and opened an invitation to visit COMEV this coming week.

We ended with a few announcements and concluded by singing Grandfather's favorite song: Day is Dying in the West.

Now we're off to pack.. Some of us leave early tomorrow, others later after lunch.

### What have you done at Juriti for the first time?

- talked to Sana and Kevin (Davi)
- gave a lecture on Environmental Ethics (U. Gary)
- ran in a three-legged race (Sandra)
- come to Brazil (Elsie)

- not spent all my time during family vacation working on a puzzle (Joy)
- was responsible for care of others only as much as I wanted (Sylvia)
- vacationed in another city besides Sao Paulo and Mongagua (Matty)
- had every member of our family HAPPY a whole week doing "his/her thing" (Marcia)
  - Stan: sports galore!
  - Marci: games, talking, no kids pulling on me
  - K & J: full-time playmates/sitters
  - Gabe: grandparents galore!
- vi (saw) Patience, Prudence, Marianne, Doris, Faby and others (Ivy)
- met and talked to Betinha (Donald)
- feasted every day for a week (Steve)

Parting Words by Sonia Dettweiler

Saturday, 4 January 1997

First people to leave are Tim & Sana on Friday at 3:30 PM

Tim: So glad Norman had the idea of getting us all together. Thanks in large part to Sandra, Helen, Uncle Gary and Grandfather, we made it happen. Let's do it again.

Sana: It's been great!

Saturday at 7:00 AM Sr. Afonso takes a kombi-full to the airport (Donald P. Gordons, Alan D. Gordons) and bus station (Jennifer and Jason).

Donald: See you in 15 years.

Alan: See you in 10!

Jennifer: The people here were wonderful. One more babysitter would have been nice. (The two babysitters had eight kids five and under.)

Jason: Excellent service/ Rainy, rainy, rainy.

Saturday at 7:15 AM the Dole-Winston crowd, packed into their kombi, pull out of the parking lot:

Stan: A wonderful time was had by all.

Marcia: It was great! We gotta do it again.

Titia: Achoo! I'm drying my stockings on my legs. I just had to wash them last night. See you on e-mail!

U. Dick: Bye Bye!

Saturday at 7:17 AM the three Silva-Leme cars pull out. Car #1 Jo driving, Norman and Elsie; Car #2 Davi driving, Bete, Aunt Hope; Car #3 Sergio driving, Helena, and 3 kids.

Aunt Hope: (to those who drive too fast) Take care of yourselves so you'll be here the next time.

Norman: The morning after the first night I get back to Glendale, I'm going to wake up and say, "Boy, that was a great dream I had!"

Elsie: I was very glad to be able to spend the night with Grandfather.

Saturday at 2:00 PM Sr. Afonso takes another kombi-full to the airport (Sylvia-Ruth), bus station (Kevin-Joy), and Zaida's house (Grandfather, Gary-Doris, Carol):

Sylvia: The best thing about being here was seeing people face to face that you never hear from because they are very quiet by mail.

Kevin: Had a great time. Enjoyed the competition with the guys. Nice to see a family much more in the tradition of what I always wanted my family to be.

A. Doris: It was a great vacation.

U. Gary: Grandfather has been more alert this week than he ever is at the Presbyterian Home.

Grandfather: It has been wonderful having so many people caring for me here. The Home is going to seem mighty dull.

Saturday at 2:05 PM Sandra and Dad (U. Alan) leave for Anapolis to return a borrowed car. McKinnons hitch a ride to the shopping mall for the afternoon.

Sandra: Grandfather has been better dressed this week than the three months I was with him - due to Sylvia's being his Clothes Chairman.

Saturday at 6:00 PM Sr. Afonso takes a third kombi-full of all the remnants to the bus station: Mom (A. Alma) and the Dettweilers. He refuses payment for his three trips into town.

God bless us, everyone!

c:\lstdocs\juriti.doc