

# Sam & Connie Gill

September 2004

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## What do they have in Common?



- A). They were all born in Eastern Europe.
- B). They are all over 65.
- C). They are all under 25.
- D). They all made short-term missions trips in 2004.
- E). They have all made plans to visit us in São Luis in 2005-06. ☺

While on home assignment this summer I met these folk in supporting churches. Earlier this year, each of them chose **to invest their lives on a short-term mission trip**. Their stories still ring in my ears. When I consider their culture – one in which affluence, individualism, and a hurried lifestyle are the norm—I find their choices outstanding!

This year they tasted foreign lifestyle firsthand in Japan, Argentina and Columbia. While overseas, they found creative ways to serve – helping in VBS, babysitting, using their technical skills, and smiling and hugging nationals. For most, this was not their first overseas trip. In fact, Chet, (man on far right) flew back to Columbia before I could finish this letter.

Picture # 1 *“Even though I encountered a few health problems, I wouldn’t trade the creature comforts of home for the firsthand view I had of the challenges missionaries face in Japan.”*

Picture # 2 *“I’ve been writing a missionary daughter from my home town for years. She invited us to come for a visit. So my sister and I went to Japan this year to help in VBS and lend a hand wherever we could.”*

Picture # 3 *“I’m a retired electrician and I love to use my skills helping out overseas.”*

While none of these folks plan to visit us in São Luis, we are certainly open. In fact, we can imagine someone just like you in these pictures. Why not pray about investing your time and energy in a firsthand overseas visit in the next couple of years? You might want to explore a short-term trip to São Luis, Brazil, South America, Japan, or even Bosnia! Who knows, in the not too distant future, you could be telling stories about what you learned overseas on your short-term mission’s trip.

Grateful for your faithfulness,  
Samuel & Connie Gill

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