



**Bill and Susan  
Kieffer**

## Serving with



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***“Portanto, quer  
comais quer bebais,  
ou façais outra  
qualquer coisa,  
fazei tudo para  
glória de Deus.”  
1 Coríntios 10:31***



January 2016

Dear Friends,

We have not written for quite some time. It is not that we did not want to write, nor was it that there was nothing to write about. I think that the reason will be clear as you read on.

On November 18 we arrived in Brazil after a seven-month furlough. On December 7 Susan returned to the States for three weeks to be with her mother and family during her mother's last days on earth. Between these two dates, we were getting ready for the January retreats. On December 30 Susan returned from the States, and Bill eagerly waited for her at the airport. The plane was two hours late, and this is where the story really begins.

While waiting, Bill walked around the airport, but he did not see a small shelf. He hit his shin on the shelf, which we have all done many times, but this time was different. He did not feel anything different. Susan arrived, and they went home. The next day Bill's leg was swollen, and he was in a lot of pain. We thought that it would pass, but it didn't. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday passed while preparations continued to be made for the counselor-training camp that was to start on the next Monday. Monday arrived as did the people. There was a great group of 29 people wanting to learn how to serve the Lord. It was wonderful.

Bill taught for five hours each day on how to counsel, how to run the games, the philosophy of Hope Ranch, etc. The whole week his leg was not getting better but hurting more. Finally on Saturday his leg turned a bright red around the open sore that had appeared. We called Bill's heart doctor and marked Sunday at 11 a.m. for him to take a look at it. The look turned into a three-day stay in the hospital as the leg had become infected between the muscle and the membrane that covers the muscle. Bill tried to put off the surgery and the hospital stay until the next week, but the doctor said that it was critical, that he could lose his leg, and that the infection could even go to his heart. Enough said.

There are many times that we have used Romans 8:28 to comfort people when they are going through trials. This time it was Bill's turn to apply it to his own life. This was Sunday. He was worried sick about the teen retreat to start the next day, but God knew exactly what He was doing. The Lord had brought the right people together to learn what they needed to learn. Now was the time for them to do it. God even knew how to get Bill out of the way so that they could to it.

This teen retreat was by far the best ever. There were seven teens who put their faith in Christ, and many made decisions to serve the Lord full-time.

God is in control. The leg is still healing. Bill is taking two types of antibiotics and having to keep his leg up. Is it easy? Not really! But Romans 8:28 has become a reality once again in our lives.

Thank you for your prayers for us as well as for your financial support. The family retreat is just three weeks away. Please keep us in prayer!

In Christ,  
*Bill and Susan*