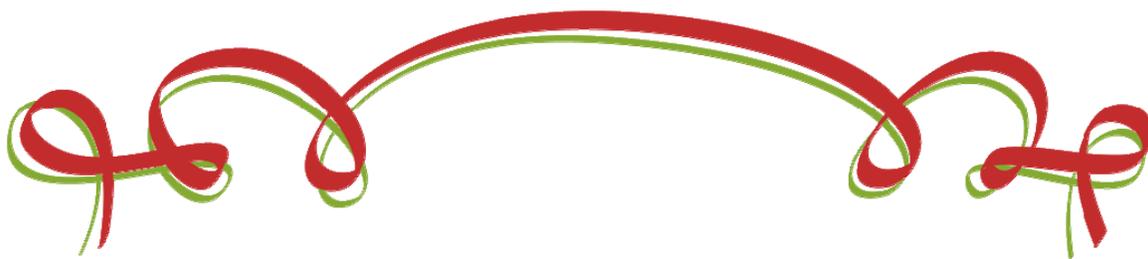


## Cross-Cultural Perspectives



### *No Place "Like" Home for the Holidays!*

The holiday season is upon us. For missionaries this sometimes presents a predicament. For example, "I'll be home for Christmas" stirs mixed emotions. Where is home? Well meaning friends attempt to comfort with, "Home is where your heart is." Missionaries have multiple homes..

Holiday time is family time. You may be far from family during the holidays. Instead of joy; nostalgia, loneliness, or even worry may become creep into life..

1. Bloom where you are planted (the old saying goes). Make your present locale "like" home for the holidays. Make the best of the twists and turns of life. Create memories.
2. Far apart from family members? Create families. Spend time together with others. Don't be alone for the holidays. If invited to a friend's house for Christmas accept the invitation with gratitude.
3. Sharpen your communication skills. Send a greeting card, e-mail, letter, cassette, picture or home video or DVD to those you love. Make a telephone call. When you brighten the day for another, it will become a lot brighter for yourself.
4. At Christmas, it's all about Jesus. Bring Luke 2 alive in your cultural context. Read it. Sing it. Dramatize it. Celebrate it!
5. Treat yourself to a holiday gift. I recommend *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is a simple, enchanting story of the worst kids in the history of the world. The Herdmans are guilty of every childhood crime and crash a local Christmas pageant. None of them have ever attended church much less heard of the Christmas story. You'll love it! A friend once sent me my

copy from Amazon.com. And that it is an idea too. Why not get a copy for yourself and one for a friend?

Sister Howell and I will be spending Christmas in St. Louis. We are joyfully anticipating our children, grandchildren, and a few extra for the holiday season. I've been doing extensive decorating and have the back pain to prove it. Sister Howell is busy planning menus and purchasing goodies. Beyond our biological family we will also be thinking of our extended family which includes you. So, across the miles and far apart; our mission joins us heart-to-heart. Feliz Navidad!