

Marked for Life Series

No Place "Like" Home for the Holidays!

By

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Sister Howell and I have just returned from the Global Council in Thailand. We missed many of the younger missionary kids or should I say "global nomads." Had you been there we would have really "rocked." We would have "turned the world upside down" or at least Pizza Hut.

The holiday season is upon us. For global nomads 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." Global nomads have multiple homes and have little idea where home actually is.

Holiday time is family time. You may be far from family during the holidays. Instead of joy; nostalgia, loneliness, or even worry may become marks in life. I well remember how my heart ached each time I passed Jared's room when he became the first of our global nomads to return to North America. What to do? That is the question.

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? Global nomads are masters at creating families. Adopt-a-parent or family member and spend time together. If invited to a friend's house for Thanksgiving or Christmas accept the invitation with gratitude.
3. Sharpen your communication skills. Send a greeting card, e-mail, letter, cassette, picture or home video 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 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 El Salvador. Will we be at home or will it be "like" home? I'm not sure. There is one thing I do know. We will be thinking about our biological family, and the extended family we've created, which will include you. Both are blessings from above! So, across the miles and far apart; our mission joins us heart-to-heart. Feliz Navidad!