

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY

by Carol Buzbee



“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13 NLT)

Sixteen years ago my daughter, Samantha, was a volunteer in Paraguay, South America when she contracted pneumonia which turned into Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). She was put on a ventilator in the ICU. I went to Paraguay and then Samantha was moved to a hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In Paraguay I had a translator and other help but in Brazil I was all alone. Through Mantua’s Rotary organization I was connected with two Rotary members in Sao Paulo.

Mara drove across the city to help me. She spoke great English. “She said, “Just treat me like an old friend. You can ask for my help with anything.” We shopped, ate, and got me some Brazilian money.

Victor was the Youth Exchange Director for Rotary in Sao Paulo and also spoke great English. Over the next week Victor and his wife and sons took me and then

us into their home. They fed us, gave me Brazilian money, washed our laundry, gave us a place to stay, transported us to and from the hospital as well as to the airport, and let us contact home.

These people were the essence of hospitality. They welcomed us with open arms and did everything within their power to meet all of our needs. They asked nothing in return. I have never forgotten their welcoming and loving help. They are my best example of hospitality.

DEAR GOD, PLEASE LET US BE AS HOSPITABLE AS MARA AND VICTOR GIVEN THE CHANCE. OPEN OUR HEARTS TO BE WARM AND WELCOMING TO STRANGERS. LET US CHEERFULLY AND GENEROUSLY MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. IN CHRIST’S NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.