

# GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

Pastor Bill and Ann Wilbur

GAMBOA, PANAMA

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DECEMBER 2010 Just like you, we are all going through changes. That is just the way life is...we are all changing and we face decisions involving changes each day...some voluntary and others just hit us and we have to make a choice. What have you faced this year? Jesus promises us that He will never leave us or forsake us...and that includes in the midst of decisions and changes.

Our son, David, with his family have face a lot of decisions and changes in one year. Like others, he has followed a job to Wilmington, DE which involved temporarily moving his family North and finding schools for 9 year old Joseph and 5 year old Jonathan leaving 3 year old John David at home with Martha. It also involved looking for a good church and adjusting to the cold after coming from the warmth of Orlando, Fl.

Our daughter, Becky, with her family have faced decisions and adjustments with four year old Elyse now in pre-school and Markie in first grade. Can you believe homework for a first grader? The economy has affected most walks of life including the tourists who buy Matt's personally designed T-shirts and art work at the cruise ship terminal.

The prophet Isaiah, the same one that told about the coming of the Messiah in such detail, also said that our lives are like the flowers and grass of the field...they come, look great, serve a purpose, and then they are gone. It is almost like they were never there.

Christmas is a time of celebration that Jesus broke through into the time barrier in the history of mankind and gave us an eternal perspective on all of life. Changes will come and decisions will have to be made, but Jesus showed us how to make those decisions in the light of eternity and with eternal significance.

Otherwise, it is vanity... just going through a routine with a personal agenda which has no eternal significance. So we ask ourselves...Why do we do what we do?

We have asked ourselves that question more than once this year. Not only are we facing some big birthdays, but once again we have to move. We have lived in government housing for nearly 35 years here in Panama. But all of that has changed. First, we lived near the Panama Canal for 31 years and now we can no longer stay in this house where we have been for the past four years with jungle on three sides.

So, in the midst of this BIG change for us, we have asked ourselves, "Is this our time to leave Panama?" This has caused us to come to a place of fresh surrender to the Lord, being willing to go wherever and do whatever He desires. After much prayer by ourselves and others on our behalf, we believe that the Lord is not done with us here yet...nor on earth. So we are moving again, not from Gamboa, but just to another home.

In this change, and all changes, we can say based on His Word, that just as God has been faithful in the past, He is faithful now and He will be on into eternity. That is something to live for and be ready to die for....Jesus made it all possible by coming into the world and dying for our sins.

Have a Merry Christmas and a great eternity.... Love and prayers, Bill and Ann Wilbur