

Berrios - Flores Family

THE LORD HAS TAKEN OUR DAUGHTER, KEREN, TO HEAVEN!

September 2007

Hello Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

I think this is the hardest prayer letter I have ever written or will ever write as a missionary. I would rather write it as a father, a husband, a brother in Christ and a friend than as a missionary. I want to share with you freely what is on my heart.

As many of you already know, on August 3 our daughter, Keren, suffered a serious car accident in Anderson, Indiana. We received the news in Romania and, thanks to the Lord, flew to the United States seven hours later to be with her. She was resuscitated at the site of the accident and taken by helicopter to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis where she remained in Intensive Care until she was declared brain dead. She died on August 5 after her organs were donated to save and improve the lives of other people. After all the necessary arrangements, we flew to El Salvador on August 14 where we had a beautiful memorial service at Miramonte Baptist Church to celebrate her life. The next day, we buried her body at The Resurrection Cemetery in the city of San Salvador.



On August 24, we flew back to the United States for our son, Gerson, to return to school. We decided to spend some time with him as we adjust to this new reality of not having Keren with us anymore. On September 6, Anderson University celebrated a memorial service to honor Keren. On September 13, there was a ceremony to plant a tree in her memory after Francisco spoke before all the students and authorities of the University.

As you can imagine, there are many people to thank for so many details needed in all these events:

- To the students and leadership of Anderson University for honoring Keren in such a special way and giving an unforgettable tribute to her memory by planting a tree and performing a precious memorial service.
- To the leadership and brothers and sisters at Sanctuary Community Church in Indianapolis for all their care, their Spiritual and emotional support and the memorial service celebrated at their church in honor of Keren.

- To the pastors and brothers and sisters of Miramonte Baptist Church in El Salvador for performing an unforgettable memorial service that will remain in our hearts forever, as well as their material, spiritual and emotional care for us.
- To the evangelical church in El Salvador, especially to the FIBAM churches (Miramonte Baptist Church family of churches) for their special material care in these circumstances.
- To World Reach for their extraordinary support in dealing with all the legal and logistic details required to be able to travel with Keren's body to El Salvador and for arranging all the legal work that circumstances like this require in the United States.
- To the Kiesel family (Laura and Scott) in Indianapolis for adopting my children into their family and taking care of them, for hosting so many people who came here to be with us and for coordinating many of the legal details that were necessary to take Keren's body from the United States to El Salvador.
- To the Rodriguez family (Emma, Lidia and Roberto) in El Salvador for donating the place at the cemetery where Keren was buried.
- To the many more of you who have written, sent flowers, sent e-mails, provided for our expenses, hosted us, comforted us and cried with us. Thank you all so much!!!!!!

And Now What . . . ???

I know many of you are wondering what we are thinking and what is going to happen in the future. I want to share with you some of our thoughts to help you to know what to pray:

- First, I want to say that GOD IS GOOD!!!!
- With this, I want to say that Spiritually we are okay – our hearts have peace with God. We know He decided to take Keren to Heaven. This was His sovereign decision and we submit ourselves to it. Some of you may say, “But, wasn't it an accident?” NO!!! There is no chance that it was an accident!! It is a contradiction to consider that God is sovereign and think that something is out of His control. Keren had written one of her thoughts on this very idea, **“None of my hairs fall from my head without God knowing it; I believe in that.”** I say “Amen” to what my daughter wrote because it is the basis for the healing of our pain and aching hearts with her departure to Heaven. Yes, we miss her so much!!! It hurts not being able to see her anymore. It is the same sorrow that anyone who has lost a dear one feels, although there is tremendous comfort in knowing that God is sovereign. As Isaiah 28:29 says, **“All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.”** In the context of this calamity, we say, “God is wonderful in counsel; in Him we trust and declare that He is good and His mercy is forever!”
- Thanks to the advice of our church pastors and the brethren at World Reach (our mission agency), we are spending additional time in the United States to be together as a family with our son, Gerson. The days we are living are so sensitive. Facing the reality is part of this healing process, but to do it away in Romania, separated by an ocean, would be too much. It is better during this time to be a father and a husband before being a missionary. I know you will understand and pray about this.
- Martita is going to El Salvador. She has been invited to teach at the Women's Camp of Miramonte Baptist Church in El Salvador during the last days of October. An added blessing is that two women from Romania that Martita works with will be going with her (Gabi Pintilie and Corina Rizan). Pray for Martita as she prepares the lessons and shares with the women from El Salvador on how to relate to God as the Father that every little girl wants. God may use her to encourage and comfort those who will listen to her.

- We are going back to Romania when Martita returns from El Salvador. Gerson will come to Romania to spend Christmas with us. We ask God that this time together will help us to begin a new life without Keren.

This is Keren's poem that she wrote in April 2006. It looks like she was preparing herself for her Homegoing. I hope you enjoy it as we do.

MOURNING

**Today I mourn the end of an era...
of memories made,
of stories told,
of healing hearts,
of watery eyes.**

**Today I say goodbye.
Today I let go and open my arms
to the next treasure placed in my hand.
Today I'm taken away from your arms.
Today I float in the air,
waiting to be caught by the future.**

**Today I mourn you...
your contagious smile,
your challenging thoughts,
your caring heart,
and my love for you.**

**Love that will not disappear because you're gone.
Love that will grow,
trust that will be stronger,
And confidence that you're just paving the way.**

**Today I wipe my tears.
I let go.
I try to leave with you a last memory,
a last laugh,
a last tear,
a last...**

*Written by Keren E. Berrios
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May the Lord bless you all,



Francisco and Martita

World Reach – Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry

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