

Joy & Bill Carrera Family



At our SIS retreat in February 2020 we wanted an opportunity to come alongside a sister in faith. We chose to provide support through prayer, encouragement and a love gift for Joy Carrera and her family. Joy and her husband, Bill, have been on the mission field for 21 years. They met at Moody Bible Institute which Joy refers to as a “shoe factory”—you go in single and come out as a pair! Joy and Bill were married in 1994 and went to Brazil in 1998 after a few years of specialized training. Joy was the first woman pilot working for

Wycliffe Bible Translators and her husband served as a missionary educator. They worked in Brazil for 15 years and in Peru for 6 years. Most of Joy’s flights involved travels through the jungle and offered the challenge of unpaved runways. Joy and Bill were blessed with three children they have raised on the mission field.

Until last year, Joy was one of the healthiest persons you could meet with rarely a sick day over the years. In April 2019 she was not feeling well and was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She and her family had to return to the States for her to have surgery at Johns Hopkins and then to evaluate her ongoing treatments. Due to the rarity of her cancer, her doctors recommended a combination dose of treatment in the fall that caused organ/nerve damage along with pain and the inability to walk. Joy has seen many prayers answered this past year. She just completed the recommended monthly treatments and will have scans the first week of August to confirm that her body is cancer-free.

Joy and her family stayed with Bill’s family in Chicago. Their three children have hung in there as life completely changed without any advanced warning (and then changed again due to Covid 19). William just finished his freshmen year at Wheaton College; Cullen graduated from a very large high school and will attend Taylor University in Indiana studying Media and Film Production; and Camilla missed her friends in Peru while attending junior high school in the US.

Joy’s parents, Cullen and Janet Rast, were sent by Forcey to serve as missionaries in Brazil more than 50 years ago. Cullen is continuing to serve faithfully and asks for prayer for Janet. She contracted Alzheimer’s disease and her health has continued to decline. She is immobile and mostly non-responsive in a nursing home where Cullen visits her every day.

Joy’s brother and his wife, Joel and Cindy, served as missionaries in Brazil for many years. In December, Cindy went to be with the Lord after a battle with cancer. The family is asking for prayer that the Lord will continue to fill their hearts with His hope, joy, and peace. Joel continues ministry in Brazil.

Current prayer requests:

- Wisdom and safety as they navigate a short furlough during these days of COVID-19
- William and Cullen as they leave for college at their respective campuses: Wheaton and Taylor.
- Peruvian international borders to open in God’s perfect timing so they can return to their home and place of service.
- For complete healing of the nerves in Joy’s toes. She continues to experience some discomfort which is being managed by a nerve pain medication that can cause drowsiness. She cannot request her pilot’s medical until she is off that medication. That is only step one to returning to flying. There are other requirements for recurrent training that will also need to be met.