



Michael, Elizabeth & Anita

## The view from *This Little Row in the Lord's Vineyard*

The Dohn Family ~ SAMS Missionaries in Health Ministries

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## The US Family Medical Leave Act

For the blessing of family, we give thanks.

We made a home visit recently to evaluate the level of assistance needed by a woman patient so that her family member who lives in the USA could get leave from work. The 88-year old woman was blind and was almost totally paralyzed on her left side from a stroke. She was verbally interactive, but confused.

This woman obviously needs help with almost all of the activities of daily living – dressing, eating, etc. When we saw her, she was dressed and sitting in a wheelchair in the small living room, with windows and doors wide open. What struck me during our visit was the number of family members and friends who were there and participating in this woman's care. The family has not thought of a nursing home nor hired help (not that either of those options are very common or possible here).

The occasion of two US physicians making a scheduled house call may have prompted more people being present than normal that day. However, families commonly take care of their own here – whether the elderly or children with disabilities.

Michael completed the FMLA form. The relative from New Jersey was actually using her vacation time and personal days at this point, but wanted to have the form on file with her employer if she needed to return when her mother's condition worsens.

What a blessing to have family. When other resources are scarce, involvement of a loving family can compensate.

Keep praying, Anita

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