

Happy New Year!

This is a Thanksgiving picture of our family (minus Dan, who was visiting friends). If you have tracked Karis' adventures through her website, you know one special reason we gave thanks this year: **Karis is still alive!!** By the time you read this, we hope she'll be off the ventilator and out of ICU, embarking on the long road of recovery.



Here's what happened: In early November, Karis almost died from bilateral pneumonia (Legionnaire's Disease). Her transplanted intestine had to be removed. As I write this at the end of November, Karis has been deeply sedated for the last three weeks so that all of her energy can go into healing. (If you want more details, see www.aup.org/Karis.)

What happens next? Good question—we've never been down this road before! The doctors say that Karis' recuperation will be slow. They say she may be well enough to be listed for another transplant in about six months. Since she no longer has an intestine, she'll be 100 percent TPN dependent (fed directly into her veins). We'll stay in Pittsburgh until she's strong enough to travel, and then we may take her home to Brazil for a while. We hope she'll be able to spend some time in South Bend with her ND friends before they graduate in May. But we haven't yet been able to consult Karis about these plans; they're just our own ideas.

During January and February David hopes to visit many of you!

Like you, we don't know what 2005 holds. Every day brings renewed opportunity to draw close to our Shepherd, who knows the way.

Trusting Him, and grateful for you,

Debbie - for the Kornfields