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World traveller kept close tabs on family

Sarah Sacheli, Windsor Star

Published: Friday, November 21, 2008

Michael Tracy was a world traveller, but to his family, he was never far from home.

He played Chinese checkers online with his widowed 64-year-old mother every night, trying to fill the void left when his dad died five years ago. E-mails to and from his brother and three sisters came almost daily.

"We wouldn't be surprised to get a call from him at a soccer match in Brazil or a cricket match in England," said his older brother, Ed. "It felt like he was only a couple miles away."



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When Michael, who had been living most recently in Brazil, fell out of touch for two days, the family thought it strange.

Then came the devastating news that he had been killed in Mexico City crossing a street Nov. 12. Michael, 38, worked for ATM giant Diebold Inc. as an internal auditor and was on temporary assignment in Mexico. He had been there only two days.

News of his death reached the family late last week, about 36 hours after the traffic incident. "We thank God he was with a colleague when it happened," said Ed. Had Michael been alone, the family may have never known what had become of him, Ed said, explaining the company "struggled" to find the single man's family.

Michael grew up in Windsor and Kingsville. He attended St. Anne high school in Tecumseh, Mercy College of Detroit and completed a master's degree in business administration at the **University of** Detroit Mercy.

His job took him around the globe. He lived in New Jersey, Ohio, England and Brazil, and used his temporary homes as launching pads for travel around the world.

His funeral will be held Saturday at St. John de Brebeuf Church in Kingsville.

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