The Steidingers *Matt, Janelle, Mariah, Jaelah, Luke, Sierra*

Boat "parking lot" at a baptism on the Madeira River close to the city of Manicoré

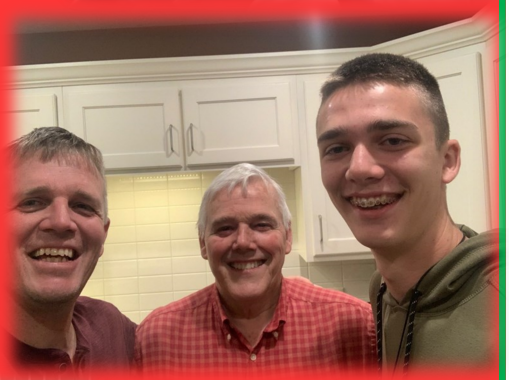
It's hard to believe we're already at the end of 2022! A quick recap….**JAN-**Mariah's first semester of nursing classes at IWU (Marion, IN) and Jaelah's first semester at Heartland Community College (Bloomington IL) as we were finishing up our home assignment. Heading back to Brazil as a group of just four was very different, we're slowly figuring out this transitional phase of kids moving out. Jumped back into the routine by attending a baptism in Calama (one hour upriver by speedboat) **FEB-** Luke (sophomore) and Sierra (8th grade) started a new school year. **MAR–** Brought several meetings with the church ASL is partnering with to establish churches on the Madeira River. Many details to work out yet but we're super excited about the Holy Spirit's leading us together and potential for transformed lives. **APR-** Jaelah celebrated her first birthday away from home, but was able to spend some time with Mariah the weekend of her birthday. Luke started traveling more with the youth group on weekend trips to river communities. **MAY–** Very special—Sierra shared with us her desire to take the next step in her faith and was baptized at our local church in Humaita! Derek Stoller spent a week with us knocking out several things on the to-do list to get the Bearhawk back into flying shape. The local Humaita church welcomed a pastor from our 'mother' church in Porto Velho, another exciting step for our congregation. Pastor David also supervises of some of the river churches with ASL. Mariah and Jaelah came to Brazil for summer break and were part of a 60 person mission trip led by Igreja as Nacoes from Porto Velho. We took advantage of their time here and visited a beach town in western Brazil (*pic; bottom of page*). **JUNE–** Survey trip to 'spy out the land' took Matt & Jaelah and 6 Brazilian missionaries to Novo Aripuana, the next county downstream ASL is praying and planning to expand into. They brought home a surprise—a long awaited puppy for Sierra. **JULY–** Mariah worked as a CNA at a couple central IL nursing homes. Sierra became a small group leader, she and Luke are now part of the youth group leadership team. All full time ASL missionaries came to Humaita for seminar and meetings. (**cont. next page**)

PRAISES FOR 2022

-450 food baskets delivered to 19 different communities
-8,525 miles flown with thousands more traveled by boat.
-48 small groups meeting in 29 communities.
-129 people were baptized and are being discipled!

AUG– After more than two years of repairs and prayers, the 4-place Bearhawk flew again!! Jaelah moved into her first college apartment. Puppy chewed through wires on Luke's electric bike but was soon forgiven due to extreme cuteness. **SEPT**-Hosted Labor Day weekend team of Andy & Marie Kaufmann and Jason & Nancy Damkoehler. Baptism of 21 souls in the community of Prainha. **OCT**– Mariah's white coat dedication ceremony for nursing school—Janelle was thankful to watch via Zoom (*1st pic*)! Matt made trips to Sao Sebastiao with a Brazilian pastor/missionary (*2nd pic*) and the Purus river for super-vision and to explore future growth. Matt & Luke traveled back to the US for meetings and to help with fieldwork (*3rd pic; Sierra and Luke in the tractor*). **NOV**– We know life is full of the unexpected, and we were reminded of that again on November 4th, as Matt's dad, Dennis, passed away from an unexpected heart attack. Matt was blessed to spend a week with his dad before Dennis was called to his eternal Home. Sierra and Janelle had stayed in Brazil but thankfully were able to travel back to the US in time for the visitation and funeral. Dennis visited us in Brazil multiple times over the last 10 years. In Santarem, he was there when we put the Murphy Rebel (3 -place floatplane) in the water for the first time. He even got into the dirty Amazon River water and helped manuever the plane for the first water taxi (*pic; bottom left*)! Anyone who met him knew he was one of our biggest cheerleaders and prayer warriors. We miss him!

In the 9 years since Matt's mom passed away, Dennis spent many winter months traveling and volunteering around the country. It was not unusual for him to be gone for months at a time. On a few of our last home assignments he would be traveling and blessed us by letting us be based out of his house. The other day when we were helping clean his condo, Janelle said, "It kind of feels like he's just traveling and that's why he's not at home, but the reality is WE are just traveling and HE is actually HOME now. This is the reason we celebrate, and because of you, have the opportunity to explain to many that we are just pilgrims here and some day, because of Jesus, we can be home eternally.



May the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face shine upon you and your family this blessed Christmas Season. Truly thankful and blessed by your continued prayer and financial support as we celebrate 10 years in Brazil!

Gripped by the Father,

the Steidingers

Donations:
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