

The Steidingers

~ Serving with AMAZON SALT AND LIGHT ~ Spring 2024



SERVING BY LAND AND BY SEA (above pic).

More than four years later and with many volunteers contributing, the Bearhawk 4 is back flying on floats! Thankful for the small landplane on the left that has also been flying here for 9 years. Both of these tools assist in taking the Gospel farther, faster— hours by boat is minutes in a plane and days by boat is mere hours in a plane— Matt is experiencing that this month as he is doing some flights that average 4.5 hours each.....or it would be about a week by boat!

Since our last paper newsletter, we've had a season of visitors—from Switzerland, Norway, Germany, and the US! All our US visitors were family and it was so fun to have them here for awhile—Janelle's parents for 3 weeks, Matt's sister Joy and husband Jason (bottom pic) and a friend for a week and Matt's niece Naomi and husband Derek & their little boy the week after that. Janelle's parents fixed and painted our window screens, Jason & Joy & Kimmie shared at the youth service here in town (middle right pic) and helped put on a kids program in a nearby community, and Derek spent many hours at the hangar with Matt working on the plane and flying (top right pic). We also made time for ice cream, fish, acai, a churrascaria, watching ILLINI basketball, some Monopoly and Phase 10, and lots of hours of good conversation and laughs too :-)

Mariah – Pinning ceremony the end of April and still on track to graduate with her Bachelor's in Nursing in December. Taking classes this summer, an internship in Ft Wayne and squeezing in a trip home.

Jaelah – Has settled on her college home for the next couple years— she'll be staying in Bloomington at Illinois State University and studying *Teaching English as a Second Language*. Looking forward to a summer mission trip to Thailand.

Luke – Grinding out the last few months of high school, and getting all his admittance things done for College of the Ozarks. Who knew it was so complicated to get a TB test and a meningitis booster in Humaita? :-)

Sierra – Loves writing and asked to take a research paper writing class—her mom is super thankful someone else will teach her this. Still playing the piano and working on American Sign Language (with Luke when he cooperates).



Visit to the community of Prainha with the Bearhawk 4 on its newly installed floats (April 2024)



One of the questions frequently asked, both by our supporters in the US and by Brazilian pastors from the south, “what is the biggest obstacle in reaching the thousands of villages scattered across the Amazon basin?” In many countries and people groups that answer would be “they don’t understand” or “they are closed to the Gospel” or “it takes years to build a relationship”.

None of these come to mind as we think about the mission here in northern Brazil. The biggest hurdle we face is “getting there”. It is amazing to see how quickly God works and transforms lives once we have the ability to visit the communities on a frequent basis and begin regular discipleship. Matt was at a community last month for the first time. He went looking for a house, or person of peace, that would be willing to host the meeting. Having never met anyone before, it was a little intimidating to ask, especially since they didn’t know him from Adam. However, in one house after a short conversation, the father not only accepted, but jumped up and said “well if the meeting is gonna start in a half an hour I guess I better get started inviting people!” Quickly put a shirt on and ran out. Wow! So here we experience our biggest obstacles as transportation and training—two areas that ASL has focused on and continues to finesse. What is the best boat motor for operation? What plane can serve best in which river system, etc? Praise the Lord we are just months away from shipping the **Bearhawk5** to Brazil!

Now the prayer request: Janelle always says Matt can’t fly two planes....soon we will have three! Please join us in getting word out about our need for future missionaries. Brothers and sisters willing to be a part of what God is doing....even better if one of them is a pilot / airplane mechanic!

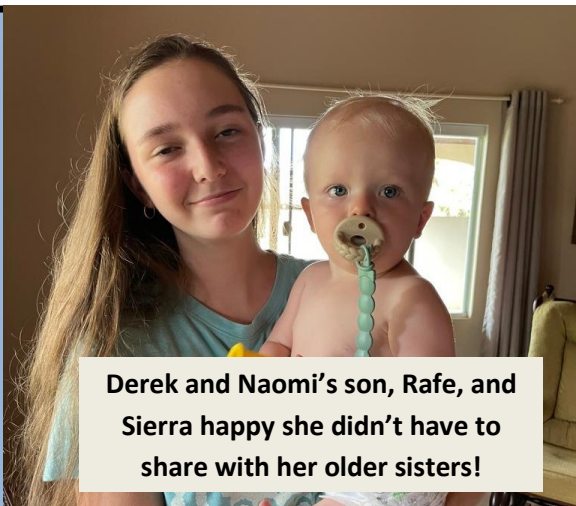
PRAISE and PRAYER:

- Praise for 14 lives committed to Christ during an Easter weekend mission trip to the community of Nazare!!
- And prayer requested for effective discipleship of all 14!
- Praise for a diagnosis and that Janelle is finally able to begin treatment for Lyme disease.
- And prayer requested that the treatment is effective!

Thankful for each one of you that provides support; prayerfully, emotionally, and financially.

In His service,

Matt, Janelle, Mariah, Jaelah, Luke, Sierra



Derek and Naomi’s son, Rafe, and Sierra happy she didn’t have to share with her older sisters!



Getting ice cream with Grandpa & Grandma Lehmann!



Thankful for visitors willing to minister at our local church (Kimmie Brosman with Sierra translating).

Donations:

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