

# The Steidingers

Matt, Janelle, Mariah, Jaelah, Luke, Sierra

~~~~~ Missionaries to the Amazon ~~~~~ Winter 2024



A quick recap of 2024! **January** saw us sending the older girls back to the US once again to study. Later that month, we kept the kids of a couple missionary families so their parents could serve at an Encounter with God retreat. Four extra girls was a lot for Luke but they all had fun, participated in a dance seminar and we made and decorated cut-out cookies which was new for them! **February** brought the visit of some European missionaries to investigate aviation needs in a neighboring town. Matt & Janelle also had a 'first' - found out that hitting an ant eater is hard on a vehicle (new bumper, radiator, etc). Janelle's parents came to visit for the first time since 2020. Our **March** visitors included Matt's sister and brother in law, Joy & Jason and their friend Kimmy, and later Matt's niece Naomi & her husband Derek for some airplane maintenance. Mariah's nurse pinning ceremony was in **April**, and thankfully Grandpa & Grandma Lehmann were able to attend and those of us in Brazil could watch online. Matt traveled back to the US in **May** for a donor event for the new *Bearhawk5*, and was able to attend his youngest sister Faith's masters program graduation. When he arrived back in Brazil we celebrated 25 years of marriage! Luke and Sierra put in a LOT of work in **June** helping with a teen/young adult campout for church (and Mom provided technical support driving back and forth 45 times between town and the campout site just outside of town with last minute items and fresh bread for breakfast and late afternoon snack). Mariah and Jaelah came home to visit in **July**! In **August** our family was able to complete a trip we'd been planning since before COVID- visit Peru and the ruins of Machu Picchu (pic below). We also hosted our new pilot along with the US vice-president and also our new base leader from Brasilia. They helped celebrate Sierra's 16th birthday. **September** brought a film crew here for 2 weeks. In **October** Matt and Janelle traveled to Calama for a Small Group Conference. The church organizes it's small groups by continents and then each small group takes the name of a country- we have 62 "countries"! They are encouraged to pray for that country. It was incredible to see the people from little river communities, many without electricity or running water, be so excited with their country's flags (above pic)! Sierra choreographed and led the young girls dance team from our church for their 3rd event this year (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Children's Day). Luke turned 19 in **November**- still hard to believe we have 3 kids who are legally 'adults'. Matt did a couple of long flights to meet with the various churches involved in our growth plans for next year, **December**- Mariah graduates from Indiana Wesleyan with her nursing degree. We are thankful to travel back to the US to celebrate and also take the opportunity to meet with some of you and talk about opening our new base in 2025.





**YOUNGMAN**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

1) We believe discipleship is the basic foundation of church planting. Janelle with one of hers. 2) Excited for the many baptisms we had this year. The latest was in November here where we live and one of the members of Matt's cell group was baptized by his discipler. 3) Matt and one of our faithful national workers, Francisco, visiting our new base in Itacoatiara—a three day trip by boat was a mere four hours in the plane! 4) Praise the Lord for churches being constructed so Brazilians can worship even in the rainy season. 5) In October Janelle helped lead a retreat for American missionary women. 6) Over summer break, Jalah was blessed to serve MK's at a missionary conference in Thailand 7) 2024 was the busiest year for aviation since we arrived in Humaita. PTL the amphibious 4-place Bearhawk is flying regularly again. 8) Through the valleys and the mountaintops we celebrated our 25 year anniversary this year. 9) Luke started college in August. Thankful that Janelle was able to travel back...and between her and his sisters they were able to get him settled at College of the Ozarks.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face shine upon you and your family this blessed Christmas Season!

*Ever grateful,  
the Steidingers*

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