

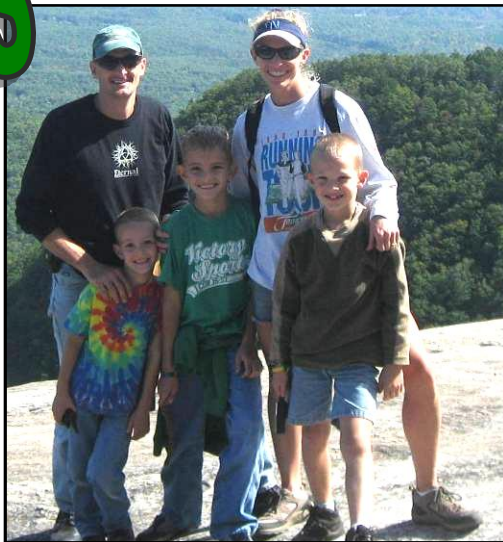


# South America Mission

# Merry Christmas

From the Sluiter Family

I have heard it said that a valley is just a transition between mountain tops. As we look back over the years Lisa and I are so thankful to the Lord for all the wonderful 'mountain-top' experiences we have had. 2008 has been a fairly tough road as we scaled yet another mountain; Settling in to life in the US, adjusting to new responsibilities at the office and raising three little boys in a crazy world. But like all valleys, we find ourselves among mountains (spelled 'opportunities') and look forward to getting a view from the top of this one.



Mountain tops always provide the best perspective. It's the valleys between the mountains that can get us down. **Thank God for giving us the ability to climb mountains.**

My role has stretched me greatly as I took on the finance department, US operations, hiring new personnel, and representing SAMAIR when ever possible (See Oshkosh next page). The role is new, challenging and full of surprises (spelled 'Stress'). Lisa recently received her certification as a personal fitness trainer and has been working part-time as a trainer since this summer. The boys? Well, they've been busy keeping us busy. They love their new school and are very proud of talking about their 'jungle-roots'.

Thank you so much for your very kind and generous support. Through your prayers and gifts, we are able to support the ministries that have become so important to us over the years. Our coworkers in South America are able to keep pressing on in kingdom work because you are faithful in your selfless giving.

From the Sluiter family, THANK YOU for all you do, and have a **Very Merry Christmas!**

Our New-Year's resolution is to stay in touch much more often in 2009.

## CONTROL PANEL

Aside from the fact that I still enjoy flying and feel very comfortable in the cockpit, I find that the control panel is a very useful tool in leadership. I am constantly checking my instruments to see what they're saying. Are we heading in the right direction? Do we have enough altitude to make it over the obstacles? And will we have enough gas and guts to make it through this stormy weather.?

And stormy weather seems to be the trend in foreseeable future. Our biggest prayer concerns at SAM right now are for our financial support and continued adjustment to leadership transitions. The economy is having its affect on our budget and we pray for wisdom in making decisions to help stay on course. Kirk Ogden will be taking over as Executive Director in January and has more than his share of challenges ahead of him.

But in spite of the weather and the plans we make, we strongly believe that God is the one "directing our steps". Thank you for making this mission a possibility and standing so faithfully behind us. Thanks for all your support and continued prayers.





Every year, aviators from around the world look forward to the annual AirVenture air show and exhibit in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For that one week, Oshkosh is the busiest airport in the world.

This year, the organizers selected Mission Aviation as their highlighted theme. So to make the most out of this, SAMAIR will be hosting a booth. Our purpose will be to build a larger awareness of our many needs and begin building a base of dedicated SAMAIR supporters.

If you plan to be there, please stop by our booth. If you don't plan to be there. . . you *should!*

### Break a Leg

You know, I thought I was missing something since we hadn't had a broken bone in years! Here I am with three Indians straight from the Amazon Jungle and not so much as an ER visit.

Thankfully Caleb stepped up and did me proud. An aborted attempt to break the school high-jump record off the swing set landed him a broken leg—which he is rightfully very proud of.

If you want to sign the cast, please stop by before December. It won't stay on any longer than necessary.



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**N9878Z** is the newest member of the SAMAIR fleet. Thanks to the contributions of many, this airplane was purchased in the US and flown to Peru in May of this year. It has since been placed in service and is busy serving the mission community in places otherwise unreachable.

Before going to Peru the floats were removed and major modifications were made at the JAARS base in Waxhaw, NC. Because of its turbo-charged engine we are now able to take heavier loads in and out of airstrips at much higher elevations.

Thanks for your prayers for safety and support.



### The Three Amigos

When I was young, my parents always told me if I didn't settle down, they would send me back to the Indians. Try saying that to a kid who actually lived with them and watch the look on his face. He will probably take it a lot more serious than I did.

For Halloween this year the boys decided to adorn themselves with Shipibo designs and alligator teeth. It is safe to say, they were the only Shipibo Indians in the neighborhood. And don't forget, Chief Caleb actually bagged himself a neighbor boy last year with that bow and arrow.

