



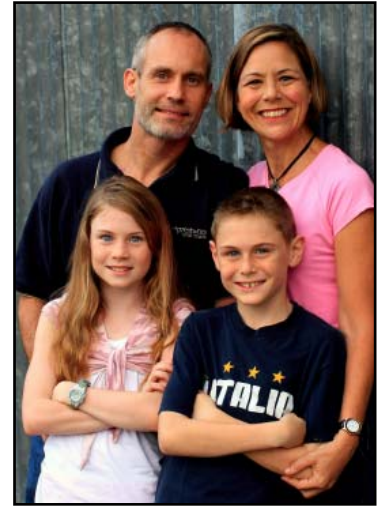
November 2009

Ministering to the People of Ecuador

How in the world are you? This is a long overdue letter that I have been putting off for weeks! Lynette and I have both been asking each other who should "pick up the pen" and start writing, but her Christmas cards floated to the top of the priority list, so I guess I win! People have been asking for a current photo, so we found a pilot one evening who took this photo so you know how old we are getting.

"Fall" in Ecuador is much the same as other months. We yearn for the multi-colored leaves and snappy pre-winter air that we enjoyed while on furlough in NY. We anticipate, excitedly, our upcoming short furlough there in the summer months of 2010. We are excited to visit once again and see as many of you as possible.

Lynette's increasing activities in the education system here make a short, 3 month summer furlough the best option. Many of you may not know that she traded in her substitute principal hat for an English as a Second Language (ESL) position at "CELE," an Ecuadorian school. Like a well-oiled machine, she handed the Nate Saint School over to the returning principal in fine condition; I am proud of her. However, she didn't let any grass grow under her feet. She augmented her ESL classes with a couple of art classes at the CASA de FE orphanage in Shell; a full plate! Elizabeth, the principal of SELE, has already promoted her to department head to organize the curriculum for other English teachers in the school.



Lynette has 40 students compressed into an undersized classroom! Sergio, our Italian friend asked recently, "How much do you get paid?" (He is thinking of teaching music at a school) Lynette volunteers, which caught Sergio by surprise. "Why? You HAVE to get paid," was the response. This has been a talking point for years among missionaries. Do we supplement our incomes with other work? Crissie, Lynette's mentor and friend once asked her, "When the Lord gives you something to do, are you going to give your service to the Lord, or demand pay? Don't worry, HE will reward you, but He doesn't pay like you may think."

Lynette has been rewarded with the opportunity to shape the lives of the children of Ecuadorian military staff, government officials, fellow church members and even the children of MAF's national employees; many of which will learn about God, Jesus and salvation for the very first time.

Robert and Becca are also enjoying a new school year with new friends. Here, Robert demonstrates a "grand slam" on the 4-square court. He has been talking about baptism lately, which is a big step. Please pray with him over his decision; our role is not to decide for him, but to provide counsel.



Praying for rain. . . . We have been facing draught. . . yes, in the **RAIN** forest! This situation has caused the governing authorities to ration resources linked to water, like electricity. We have a newfound appreciation for water and lights! I have taken for granted a "common" resource that my very life depends on. As I was praying for rain, my mind wandered to the instances where the nation of Israel found themselves under chastisement by God because of their disobedience. The arid desert that swallows up the Promised Land during a drought didn't yield the same options that Egypt's Nile River provided. The people were completely dependent on God to provide life-sustaining moisture. One such drought was ended with a showdown on top of Mount Carmel, when an "underdog" prophet ushered in God's power over the prophets of Baal. The people repented, turned from corruption and God answered their prayers. Question. . . . does dependence on God in a self-sufficient culture like ours require more resolve than in a war-ravaged, impoverished or environmentally hostile place? I guess it depends on the circumstances.

This year, I have been privileged to continue working here in Ecuador, providing communications to needy jungle villages. Part of my work allows me to get "out" and see the country. One such occasion happened in the spring, where long overdue maintenance was required at our radio repeater site on top of a jungle mountain. We



land at a small airstrip at the bottom of the Cuducu mountain range and hike up over a span of 3-4 hours.

Illness delayed my ability to join the team until the 2nd day, so I hiked up semi-ill with an Indian guide. I love to hear the stories they tell; their second language is Spanish, as is mine, which adds a flavor of confusion at times. Women with little children passed us coming down the trail after carting the roofing material up the mountain with babies hanging from their shoulders in a swaddled cotton pack like the young child on a Sacajawea dollar. The Shuar Indians brag about their women as much as I brag about mine! To the left is a photo of a sunset you never see unless you spend the night on the mountaintop... the repaired roof on the right, and our hanging backpacks below, to avoid critters getting a free meal. MRE was a new acronym that became real to me on the mountain. I was not properly prepared for my "meal-ready-to-eat," a petrified mass of carbs, "vegetables" and a dessert that self-heats by pouring water on a



mysterious sticklike piece of absorbent material. They were left-over from the war with Peru.. 15 years ago!

Another adventure occurred in a Shiwiar village, WAY OUT IN THE JUNGLE, where we installed our first new HF radio system in 25 years. Our main contact in the village, Tatauja, was telling me that we had better tie up the cables well because the monkeys love to play with and steal things. I saw an object on the trail; a skull with some loose teeth. "What is that?" I asked. He said one afternoon he heard a loud ruckus, a bit unnerving. A jungle Jaguar, similar to a western mountain cat, attacked and killed this 450 lb. tapir and ate him over the next day or so. He only left the head. All of the bones were gone!



Not long afterward, a catholic mission contacted us to see if we were interested in equipment used to maintain our airplane radios. The priest who had established and supervised their shop for many years passed away. No one in Macas knew how to operate the equipment. Our shop in Shell has the capability of installing a special kit that allows our planes to fly slower than originally designed, to land in the challenging jungle airstrips. The mission traded us many excellent pieces of equipment for the labor to modify their airplanes with this "STOL" kit. This is an answer to prayer as our equipment is aging daily in this unfriendly jungle environment.

Prayer Items: I asked the kids what they would like to ask you to pray over... Rebecca immediately requested that you pray for Jorge, AKA "Satan," who lost his eye earlier this year. He has not wanted to continue living. Pray that God touches his heart and gives him newfound purpose. Elian, a 4-year-old Ecuadorian, went to be with the Lord after a long battle with cancer. There have been many tragedies in this family over the years; please pray for Heidi, his mom. Robert asks for prayer that his Grandma and Grandpa Lexvold arrive here safely, later this month.

May the Lord richly bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

Robert & Lynette

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