

Summer 2009
Chad, Andi, Josiah & Olivia
Mission Aviation Fellowship

Irwin Informer

Operating Permit

There's no better way to start a prayer letter than to tell you about answered prayer. Since returning from furlough in January, we've had one reoccurring prayer request, and that's been our Operations Permit from the aviation authorities.

We are so glad to tell you that God has answered all of our prayers. After more meetings and inspections than I can remember, we still didn't have our permit, even though DAC (aviation authorities) had said everything was in order. It was hard to stay encouraged after so many months of hard work and

nothing to show for it. Then, in June, our Quito manager (who had been doing a lot of the running back and forth to DAC headquarters) called and said they needed another copy of the manual we had sent in as part of the Ops permit requirements. "Here we go again," I thought. Some other "nit-picky" thing they're using to delay our permit. But....I was wrong. We sent in another copy, and shortly thereafter we received our permit for two years!!! We've also had some verbal assurance that if we need up to five years to get enough Ecuadorian pilots, they

will grant us extensions. GOD IS GREAT! Thank you for praying!!!!

Now we can concentrate on praying for more pilots, as we work hard to keep up with flight requests. You see, with the new permit came new liberty to fly whomever we want. Many new clients are excited to be able to fly with us for the first time. So, we're now the busiest operator on the field. This extra flying helps us as we transition to an Ecuadorian run ministry. More on that transition in our next letter.



Andi, Natalie Frey,
Jessica & Kristi Gamble, Olivia & Josiah



Olivia enjoying a weekend emergency flight with Dad.

Visitors

Well, the summer wouldn't be the same without some visitors to brighten our lives. In June, Andi's sister, niece, and a friend came down for 10 days. We had fun showing them around and enjoying their company. We were even able to fly into a Waorani community for a short visit. It was fun watching everyone try to throw a spear and shoot a blowgun. They were also able to help us work on our

new (old) house.

In July-August we had two visits planned. One was a doctor and his family who had worked in Shell for several years and become good friends. The Hardin family came and spent their vacation working in Shell at HCJB's mission hospital so other doctors could have some vacation time. Then they treated us to a weekend at a resort hotel

about two hours away. Fun!!!

Our other visit didn't work out as planned, as many of you know. Andi's dad ended up having triple-bypass surgery just a week before their planned visit. Thankfully God answered our prayer and Andi's father is recovering quickly. They are planning to come spend their first Christmas with us!



Our family with the Hardin Family

New "Old" House

We have been terrible communicators these last few months. Along with the stress of the ops permit and the visitors, we have been trying to remodel an MAF house and pack up to move. For a while we definitely were beginning to feel we had bit off more than we could chew. With the help of Ron Grant (MAF base maintenance), we were able to get most of the work done and moved at the end of July onto the MAF base, where there are 6 MAF homes situated across from the hangar. We're still getting settled and have a lot of projects to finish, but we've made what will probably be our last move, here in Ecuador. WE HOPE! Thanks again for praying for us through this busy and stressful time.

Chad & Andi

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