

There's a line from an old Johnny Cash song that says, "I've been everywhere, man; I've been everywhere." We sort of feel that way about now. Our furlough has taken us through Iowa, Nebraska, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, New York, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas. Whew! It's been a whirlwind, but it's been great to see you, our friends and family. It is always a blessing for us to visit our ministry supporters, both churches and individuals, who make it possible for our ministry to continue.

We've had some new experiences on furlough. We homeschooled the spring semester which was a first for us. Both dad (the teacher) and the kids struggled a bit, but we were able to make it through. This was also our first furlough since Tracey's parents moved to Texas, so we enjoyed visiting them in their new home. The kids saw New York City for the first time. And last, but not least (from Dan's point of view) was a visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Email and the internet allow us to stay in contact with our team in Ecuador. The work continues, but there are things we'd like to ask you to pray about. We have been telling you for some time about our need to nationalize the operations.



Reunion with Tracey's family at her parents' new house



We had a beautiful day to visit the Statue of Liberty

It looks like new developments in civil aviation law in Ecuador will cause that to happen even faster than we thought. A new regulation will allow private operators in the jungle region to legally charge for their services without all the expense and hassle of obtaining a commercial operating permit. That sounds good, but we have been informed that all the operators must operate under this new regulation, and that foreign pilots (like us from the U.S.) will be excluded. Of course that would mean big changes for how MAF operates in Ecuador, and we covet your prayers for this situation. Another big challenge is the avgas situation. Avgas is the fuel we need for our airplanes, and the price has now risen to over \$6.75 a gallon. And

right now, there isn't any avgas available at any price. This means our planes are only doing emergency flights, conserving the little bit of avgas we have left in the tanks.

As we write this, we have about a month left of furlough. The first week of August we will vacation in South Dakota, thanks to the generosity of the family of Dan's brother-in-law (Thanks, Schornacks!). The second weekend in August we look forward to an Ecuador reunion. We will travel to Illinois to meet with several families we have served with in the past. The last big thing will be when Dan flies to California, August 15-17, for the 40th reunion of the Continental Singers. This is the group where we met, 24 years ago! Then on August 26 we fly back to Ecuador, just in time for school to start. We will leave the boys in Quito, as both of them will be at Alliance Academy, and Lydia will be in Shell, with mom and dad, to continue on at Nate Saint Memorial School.

Once again, thanks for all your support. We have felt your care and love in many ways on this furlough, and we are always grateful for the team we have.

Blessings,
Dan, Tracey, Jake, Nick and Lydia Whitehead



Cooling off in Texas, jumping off the rocks into Lake Georgetown

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