

Gahagen Update

May 2007

SAM ACADEMY'S RECORD-BREAKING GRADUATING CLASS- 5 SENIORS!!



(left to right): Karen Powell, Phillip Schmidt, Kimberly Ott, Andrew Nystrom & Whitney Gahagen

AIR TRAFFIC TAX WOES UPDATE

We are making some headway in the now several years-long fight of the 3000% increase of the air traffic control tax. Several months ago, God miraculously opened doors that resulted in Craig being able to meet with a congresswoman personally. We are currently expecting to receive word of a NEW tariff that hopefully will be made just for organizations such as ours. This would reduce the tax by 50%. (It's hard to believe we are excited by the prospect of only a 1500% increase from what we USED to pay!) But this reduction translates to thousands of dollars per year from what we now owe.

FOR PRAYER: By all accounts, government officials are telling us that the back debt we owe will not be subject to the new tariff. They say it would take a miracle to get this reduced retroactively. Hey, know Someone who specializes in the impossible????

The local missionary kids' school, SAM Academy, will be graduating it's largest class ever, with a whopping 5 high school graduates. This class is also unique in that all 5 seniors have grown up together here in Peru for the past 18 years, sharing experiences such as tree tag, mango pit fights, dug-out canoe rides, alligator hunting, catching piranhas, blowing up ant piles, storing interesting bugs in their parents' freezers, playing with, feeding yogurt to, and painting the toenails of three-toed sloths.....(the list goes on for these jungle kids.) They are gearing up for college life, however, and all 5 have even managed to appear in the above photo with actual shoes on their feet, thus meriting this newsletter's front page status.

Whitney plans to attend college at the University of Miami to study Nursing.

Milestones

OUR 23RD WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY: MAY
12, 2007

CELEBRATING 18
YEARS OF MINISTRY
IN PERU: MAY 16, 2007

OUR FIRST CHILD
GRADUATING FROM
HIGH SCHOOL: JUNE 1,
2007

UPCOMING HMA:
JULY 07-JAN 08

WHITNEY OFF TO
COLLEGE: AUG 07

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Support & tax-
deductible gifts to:

Mission to the World
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Mil Palmeras Church/Living in Grace

* The “motocross” church, called *Encuentro Cristiano Mil Palmeras*, celebrated it’s 2nd Anniversary in March. The church continues to grow and it’s exciting to see a real hunger for God’s word among the business class of Pucallpa. Attendance is around 250 people per week. Craig serves as one of the three elders. Craig & Heather lead one of the church’s “small group” Bible Studies.

*Bill Yarbrough, the Latin America Area Director for Mission to the World, came to share a mini Living in Grace seminar with Mil Palmeras in late April. It was a strategic time in the church’s growth for them to hear this grace saturated message.



SERVICES AT MIL
PALMERAS ARE HELD IN AN
OPEN AIR COVERED
BASKETBALL COURT
LOCATED ON THE SAM
CENTER MISSION
PROPERTY.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

We have been struggling with how to deal wisely and peacefully in a land issue with local Peruvian neighbors. Their desire is to have the government appropriate private land that belongs to a neighboring mission in order to procure a public road for their use. Although professing Christians, their methods reflect anger and some dishonest dealings. Pray for wisdom for Craig and the leaders of this other mission as they deal with this stressful situation.

Our new hangar office project has been completed and is 99% operational. Three short-term teams

gave of their time and resources last summer to provide us with this great working space. (The roof was raised on our hangar and new office space was made on the story above the old office and parts rooms.) Big windows & an actual view (instead of closed brick), and a desk for everyone (instead of up to 3 people sharing a desk) are among the many benefits of our new office!

The new plane project has increased significantly in the past 6 months. We currently lack just \$63,000 out of the \$313,000 project.

