

Chad, Andi, Josiah & Olivia
Mission Aviation Fellowship
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Irwin Informer

We have a file with copies of all our old prayer letters. It's fun to look back through them at times and think about all that God has done in our lives. The early letters about going "overseas" for the first time are the most enjoyable to re-read. They are full of excitement at what God had in store for us and uncertainty of what was coming our way.

So, for the last 15 years, give or take, we've had some unknowns, but we were where we had prepared to be and

comfortable that God had us there for a reason. Now, as we communicated in our last letter, we find ourselves beginning a new adventure, and the beginning has been rough. This new beginning could only start with a lot of very difficult goodbyes. I'm pretty sure we cried more times in the last two months of our time in Ecuador than in the last 5 years combined. Each time we sniffled back the tears, we were sure there were none left to be cried. Those thoughts didn't last long, as more and more people stopped to say a final goodbye and the tears kept flowing. I would not want to re-live those

couple of months, but at the same time, I wouldn't have missed them for anything. We were truly experiencing the pain of leaving for having had the privilege of loving and being loved.

Those early prayer letters are full of prayer requests for building relationships and impacting people. Only by saying "goodbye" were we able to catch a glimpse of the wonderful ways that God had answered those prayers. As we pulled out in the van and looked back at our house, where many had gathered to say a last goodbye, we realized that no matter where we live, Ecuador will always hold a very big piece of our hearts.

One of the things we all wanted to do "one more time," before leaving Ecuador, was to spend a weekend in the community of Tiwaeno. Over the years, Chad has flown so many groups there, and we as a family have built relationships with several families. We were delighted to be invited by the community for a going away party. We were humbled by our friends who had even decorated the small hut where our party was held. They each took turns honoring our family and thanking us for serving the Lord among their people. Heaven will be so much richer for having people like these. They have touched our lives with their willingness to follow the Lord, even in the midst of the difficulties that come with jungle life. We can't wait for our next reunion.





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We Still Need You!

Financial support is always a tough subject to bring up in a letter. Because of our change of assignment, we wanted to make sure that you, our supporters, understand that we are still required to raise our own support to continue working with MAF. The need for new pilots/mechanics is great, and our job now is to help others start doing what we have done for the last 15 years. Without new staff members coming into the organization, we won't be able to staff new, or old programs in countries that truly need our service.

So we want to ask those of you who have supported us in the past to continue to do so. While we may be stationed in the U.S. for now, we are still working to ensure that the ministry of MAF continues around the world. We would even like to challenge some of you to prayerfully consider raising your support level. Many of you began supporting us when you were starting out in your profession, just like we were. Now, years later, you may be able to give more than in those early days. Please understand that we ask so that you know of our need and not to

pressure anyone. You have been such a blessing to us and for this reason we know that we can share our concern.

For the next six months we will continue on our normal furlough schedule, speaking in churches and sharing what God has done in us and through us. Beginning in January, I (Chad) will start working in recruiting from our home area of Ohio until the end of the school year. At that time we will transition to our headquarters in Nampa, Idaho. There, I will work in recruiting and some training of new and potential candidates. Much of my time will involve working with students in the Moody Bible Institute program where I graduated. We pray my experience as an instructor at Moody and my field experience will serve to challenge and motivate new candidates to join in the ministry of MAF around the globe. Please pray for us during this time of transition!

Chad & Andi