



# The Armstrongs' Air-Time

John, Gioconda, Kattiana & Karsten

2008



## Apparently it is time for Some Updates!

There are subtle signs that I start to notice when it has been too long since writing a newsletter...like the following frequently asked questions that I am receiving from friends and family:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Did you move out of the Country? | 4. Are your fingers broken?               |
| 2. Are you still at Proclaim?       | 5. Do they have phone lines in Minnesota? |
| 3. Did we offend you?               | 6. Have you got a real job yet?           |

(answers: 1.no 2.yes 3.no 4.no 5. yes but very costly 6. same question Gioconda asks me!)



This year alone Proclaim has seen 3 families that completed our program begin their full time overseas service:

- Paul & Kelly Stewart (JAARS serving in Papua New Guinea)
- Lawrence & Jodie Elroy (New Tribes Mission-Indonesia)
- Bryan & Amy Lindner-Flying Mission Services, Botswana)

Two more families that recently completed their training at Proclaim will be heading overseas early 2009: Brian & Esther Writebol (MAF-serving in DRC) , Jerry & Breanna Hurd (AIM-serving in Nairobi Kenya). These missionaries represent the heart and soul of why Proclaim Aviation Ministries was founded, and there have been many churches and individuals investing in their lives to allow them the chance to serve...Thank You! Proclaim has eight Families in our program this year; the largest year ever! Proclaim continues to be the main focus of why our family serves in ministry here in the United States, helping those that have a heart to serve get that chance they need to continue into full time service. It is a real privilege for our family to have this opportunity, and it is solely by the partnerships of churches, friends, family, that we have are able to serve. **Thank you for your prayers and support!**



**Left:** Dedication of the newest training plane at Moody Aviation. Proclaim has six families serving with Moody Aviation!



**Right:** "Kodiak" aircraft is a 10 seat turbo-prop plane that is the centerpiece of the STC program



June of 2007 I officially accepted a position on the Board of the Spokane Turbine Center (STC), and I have been very encouraged at how God is using this new and vital ministry. One of my strongest goals during my time as President of IAMA was seeking ways that the mission community could cut down the amount of funds that were being spent on redundant programs. Many organizations are transitioning into turbine aircraft, and STC was formed to be the most cost effective, comprehensive training center for the missionaries that will be learning the new technology associated with turbine class aircraft. STC will centralize all the core components for the transition to the turbine aircraft, including: a simulator,

turbine test stands, engines cutaways, and a US based Quest "Kodiak" (the newest airplane designed specifically for mission work). The broad based excitement and participation from Mission Aviation Fellowship, JAARS, New Tribes Mission, Mission Safety International, Proclaim, the International Association of Missionary Aviation, and others, is a key indicator that **the STC program can save untold thousands of dollars that need not be spent on setting up redundant training programs within those organizations.**

## The Personal Side of Life

The summer started off with Gioconda's parents traveling up from Ecuador to spend a couple of months visiting family in the US. It is always a fun challenge for Kattiana, Karsten, and John to "brush up" on their Spanglish...Spanish. The last time that both of Gioconda's parents came to Worthington was in 2001 when Karsten was born.

Late June we packed the Ford Focus as full as we could get it, and drove east to Pennsylvania. Along the way we stopped at the Creation Museum that was built by "Answers in Genesis." The story of creation was presented from the Biblical account, along with a strong Gospel message throughout the entire museum. [www.creationmuseum.org](http://www.creationmuseum.org)

Our time in Pennsylvania was a wonderful opportunity to see my (John's) side of the family during a reunion at my brother's house. A special evening was hosted at my parents' house where we had the opportunity to present the latest updates on Proclaim to the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) prayer group, along with my sister Vidie, and her family, who serve as missionaries in China.

In late July I had the opportunity to represent STC at the "AirVenture" air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Literally thousands of people stopped by to see the Kodiak aircraft (pictured on the front page). In August we returned once again to PA when the Kodiak stopped at the Smoketown Airport in Lancaster, PA.

The summer is now over and Gioconda and the kids are beginning the new school year...but I will let her explain.

## Gioconda's Side of Life

Last year, after much prayer, we made the decision to send the kids to our local public school. It was a good experience for all of us. The kids enjoyed their teachers and peers, as well as the fun opportunities available in that setting. I had a hard time "letting them go"; but the Lord kindly reminded me that HE is the one in control and gave me the peace and comfort I needed. I had the opportunity to find a wonderful job that allowed me to earn some extra income for our family, and flexible enough that I could still be part of any of the kids' school programs. Our God is good!

With all that said, I am thrilled to once again be able to home school Kattiana and Karsten this year. **They asked to be homeschooled again!** I truly consider the fact that I can be a stay at home mom a blessing. Thank you to every one of you for being part of this blessing. I am constantly humbled by God's provision for our family. As you have already read, John manages to keep himself busy serving in as many capacities as the Lord allows him. I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as I help the kids with their academic and spiritual growth!

## Forward in Faith

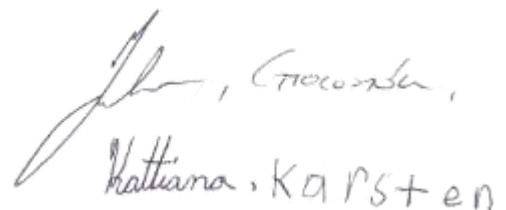
Three years ago Gioconda and I entered into full time ministry trusting God would provide along the way. We are incredibly grateful (and humbled) by the support we receive from family, friends, and churches, that allow us to focus our efforts on spreading the Gospel of Christ. Our commitment is to invest our time and energies into projects that ultimately will result in the "Great Commission" being accomplished. If you have partnered with us through prayer and support, **we can't thank you enough for your generosity and willingness to be a part of a team that brings the Good News of Christ to a desperate and needy world.** If you have not joined our support team, we would ask that you prayerfully consider helping Proclaim Aviation Ministries. May the Lord be praised for the work He is doing!

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Please note that any checks sent to the ministry should be made payable to "Proclaim." Contributions sent to Proclaim are tax deductible.