

April 16, 2008

Dear Family and Friends,

We are coming this summer and would love to connect with you!!!

We got our tickets to spend this summer vacation in the USA. Vanessa and Samuel will actually get to spend 7 weeks, while Kevin will have to come to work a little earlier. But here are the plans:

1. Denver, CO: June 17 – June 27
2. Lordsburg, NM: June 28 – July 6
3. Los Angeles, CA: July 7 – July 24 (Kevin)
July 9 – August 6 (Vanessa and Samuel)

We would appreciate your prayers for smooth, safe travels on the plane and by car. My parents have loaned us their Subaru Forrester to travel from Denver to Los Angeles (thanks mom and dad), which is helping us save on car rental. But gas prices in the USA are going to be a budget killer!

During this vacation time, we would also appreciate your prayers for us to raise more financial supporters – that God would connect us to share our story and calling to those interested in partnering with us. A church in Lordsburg, NM wants Kevin to share the Sunday (June 29) they are visiting Vanessa's grandparents. Kevin's already planning the sermon.

We currently are praying that God would open doors for us to raise an additional US\$500.00 a month in support. God has provided for our needs this year with some unexpected one-time gifts – what a huge blessing! We're hoping to be able to have more financial stability to help offset the increase in prices for cost of living. For example, a gallon of gas in Brazil costs US\$6.19 – which causes banana, beans, rice, meat, and all other prices on commodities to go up. You are probably feeling the effects of gasoline going up in the USA.

And, this is also our big shopping trip for clothes and shoes, especially for our growing boy! It sounds trivial, but making our dollars go farther when hitting good sales sure is nice. And most Brazilian clothes do not fit Kevin's frame – Brazilians tend to be small, thin people. So, part of our trip is to stock up on good deals to last until 2010 (because that's probably our next trip to the USA). We will be supporting the American economy by shopping at outlet centers in Colorado and California. (There is a store in São Paulo that sells Gap shirts for US\$55.00 and Levi Jeans for US\$200.00. – clothing is much more affordable in the USA.)

And, we want to find the right balance between making contacts, connecting with friends, and spending quality time with family. Juggling these tensions sure can cause stress, so pray with us that we find time to relax, time to connect, and time to build new relationships.

We've had some unexpected bad news this last month. Channel, our blond Brazilian Mastiff, was diagnosed with aggressive cancer and we had to put her to sleep. It was a sad day for all of us. She was a great family pet and a fantastic guard dog. We miss her already. But, we still have Aramis (the black dog) – who loves to scratch our car and might some day join Channel a lot quicker than expected if he keeps scratching! Although painful, we got to say goodbye to her and give her lots of hugs... Two days later, Samuel said "Now, I want a Dalmatian..." For right now, we keep only one dog.

Some prayer requests:

- Vanessa's health: she's been battling a chest cold for 2 weeks
- Kevin's fundraising projects for technology upgrades and cafeteria remodeling
- Samuel's Kindergarten graduation coming up
- Travels to and around the USA
- Opportunities to share our calling to potential supporters
- The school needs a music and computer teacher for next (know anyone?)

Answer to prayers:

- We get to stay in our rental home for another year (our landlord wanted to sell it but the real estate market is soft).
- Parents are lending their car so that we can travel around the USA (don't have to rent a car).
- School enrollment is excellent and the waiting list for new students is huge!
- Junior Church attendance for Vanessa's ministry is averaging 35 kids per Sunday.
- PACA's new website system is a great marketing tool (<http://www.paca.com.br>)

Thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless,
Kevin (for Vanessa and Samuel)

To financially support us there are three options:

- >> [Online](#) - this site is secured with 128-bit SSL encryption to ensure a safe donation submission.
- >> [Credit Card](#) - fill out the form and fax to the PACA Alumni Foundation.
- >> [Check](#) - download the form, fill it out, and mail it to the PACA Alumni Foundation with your check enclosed.

Financial support is processed by the PACA ALUMNI FOUNDATION (<http://www.pacaalumnifoundation.org>). The Foundation is a non-profit, 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to linking resources to develop PACA's future. Every gift is tax-deductible.

THE Flurry's
Kevin, Samuel, & Vanessa



Samuel in a tree with some good friends. Photo taken during Easter Sunday!



Vanessa leading rehearsal for Palm Sunday with Junior Church children (do you see Samuel?).



Kevin, Chad, and Jason leading worship at a friend's church called Sampa Community.