



WILLIAMS family

June 2024



Dear Pastors and Prayer Warriors,

A couple of months ago, we received a phone call from our missionary friend and partner in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian National Police, along with some military and air force personnel had suddenly showed up at the runway property with approximately 100 people and heavy equipment. They started digging ditches across our newly built runway and spent hours searching the property. They had received a tip that our new runway was being used to run drugs at night. They, of course, found nothing, and it was obvious that the runway had never been used. It later came to light that it was a nearby "church" organization that had made the false report because they do not want us there. They teach their people that anyone who teaches that salvation is through grace by faith is a demon. Satan does not want us to be there winning the lost to Christ! He almost lost the area 60 years ago but has been working to reclaim it. He is doing everything he can to stop us. It has taken over a month, but the runway has been rebuilt, and the certification process by the Ecuadorian government is almost complete.

It was obvious to us that God had a plan. The Sunday before this happened, there was a visitor at the church in Waco, Texas, where we attend while we are finishing the airplane. Her name was Paola, and we found out that she was a lawyer in Puyo, Ecuador. Puyo is right beside Shell, Ecuador, where Nate Saint was based, and is one of the closest "large" towns to us. She specialized in the legal processes for pastors planting churches and for missionary aviation groups flying and building runways in the region. We were able to get some advice from her and contact information for a similar lawyer in our canton (county), who helped us greatly in working through this situation. She said that in her canton, it would take about a year to get through the process. With her contact in our canton, it has taken about two months so far, and it is almost finished.

I have purchased replacement control surfaces for the airplane, the new instrument panel, and the first batch of instruments. We are 80% of the way to our goal with the airplane fundraising. As soon as it is finished, we will begin the preparations to fly it to Ecuador. I must admit that we have been somewhat frustrated due to the amount of time it has taken us to raise the funds and finish the airplane. Now, we are glad that we have not yet made it to Ecuador, as the government would have confiscated the airplane, and it may have been very difficult to get it back. God's timing is always the best timing, and this was a good reminder. As soon as everything is legally finished, we expect that there will not be any further problems. We are currently lacking \$35,000 to finish the airplane.

Late on the evening of my birthday, we received a phone call from my brother and mother. This was odd because it was late, and they live 2½ hours away from each other. They gave us the news that my dad was in the hospital, and the doctors had told them that if we wanted to see him again, we needed to get there soon. We left in the morning and drove straight through from Texas to California. We made it there in time and got to spend 2½ days with him before he passed. We will miss him here, but we are happy for Heaven. We are living his dream of flying in Ecuador to reach the lost, which, unfortunately, he was never able to do. I look forward to telling him all about our experiences when we join him in Heaven.

Thank you for faithfully praying for us and allowing God to use you to help provide for this ministry.

God bless you,

Chris and Irene Williams