



Steve VanBeveren – *Flight Program Director*

Steve was born into a missionary family, raised in the Amazon River Basin until the age of 17. He attended a New Tribes Mission boarding school, and was introduced to missionary aviation from birth, as his dad was a church planter who used a float plane to reach isolated riverbank communities, and many of his friends were MKs from MAF, JAARS, and various partnering missions. He graduated from Moody Aviation in 1993, and returned to Brazil with Kristin in 1998 to serve with *Asas de Socorro* (“Wings of Help”), where they were invited to help structure a missionary aviation program for training nationals from Latin America and the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. Michael (15), Maira (12), and Matteo (8) were born in Anápolis, and were homeschooled with Kristin, an elementary education teacher.

After 16 years in Brazil, the VanBeverens returned to the United States in the summer of 2014, primarily seeking a deaf ed program for Matteo, who is hearing-impaired. Steve accepted a vacated staff position at SMAT and continues to focus on training missionary pilots in West Michigan. Kristin is fulfilling a life-long dream of working with autistic children, and happy to see her own kids thriving in the transition to the public school system, while enjoying many sports, social, and church activities.

Steve is one of the SMAT representatives Airventure 2015, and is accompanied by Michael, an aviation enthusiast and aspiring pilot who joined EAA last year and is currently logging experience on a driver’s permit.

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