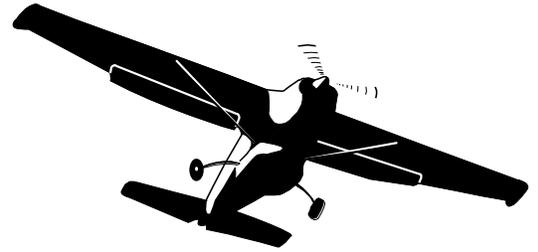


Mission Aviation Fellowship

BOX 47, NAMPA, IDAHO 83653



LePoidevin Prayer Release

Dear Praying Family and Friends,

2 in 1

JUNE 2017

On the outskirts of the vast Niassa Reserve in the north of Mozambique, a conservation group has established a base. Poaching of elephants is a constant struggle in the bush. This group is stepping up the ante to fight this problem by acquiring two anti-poaching dogs. The dogs are of the Malinois breed, which is known for its hardiness in extreme conditions, its intelligence, and its high energy and speed. The dogs were flown from Europe to Pemba, Mozambique, and from there loaded onto our Caravan for the last part of the trip to the base. In the picture on the right, the dogs are with two of their handlers.

OK, that was the one "1". Now the other "1":

In this area are three villages with about 13,000 people. They live in what you think of when you think of the African bush, far away from any city. The conservation group, MAF, and Estrela da Manha (a medical association led by a Christian Dutch doctor and nurse) are partnering to bring health care to the three villages, and the plan is to start up regular monthly flights in July. This is really exciting, folks! There are three airstrips to serve the three villages. Two of these airstrips had to be lengthened and improved in order for the Caravan airplane to be able to land there. That work was completed, and the airstrips were inspected when our team members flew up in our smaller airplane, the Cessna 206 last month. This month, while the anti-poaching dogs were getting settled in their new home, Dave and Steve made the first landing at these two airstrips in the Caravan! The picture shows the airplane on the Eravuka airstrip.



- ***Please pray that the conservation group will be successful in using the anti-poaching dogs***
- ***Praise the Lord that the airstrips are a go-ahead***
- ***Please pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of the people who will soon receive better health care in Jesus' name***

SURPRISE DUNKING

Before an MAF pilot can start flying operationally on his own on the field, he or she has already undergone years of training and preparation. Flight and mechanic training, acquiring various licenses, getting enough flight hours, raising financial and prayer support, spending a year in language school, and going through a check-out phase on the field are some of what that pilot needs to do. So when he/she finally reaches the goal of making his/her first operational flight, it is a BIG DEAL! An MAF tradition (and maybe elsewhere, too) is to "baptize" the pilot by getting him/her as wet as possible after that first flight. That usually requires a surprise factor, since the pilot already expects the dunking; he/she just does not know from which direction or exactly when. ☺



This month, Grady finished his field check out with Dave (see picture on the right), and he made his first operational flight. Everything was prepared, and we stood inside the hangar waiting for him to finish

refueling. Grady wisely took out of his pockets anything that could be ruined by the water, before he with a bit of trepidation approached the hangar doors that were only open enough for him to walk through. Expecting a bucket of water to be dropped on him from above (which happened to his wife on her first operational flight), he ran through the doors and into the hangar. Nothing fell on him, though a couple of the kids and Steve tried to get him a little wet by throwing some small buckets of water on him from the side. Grady thought he was home free. ☺

A little later, as he walked to the pilots' room, the real dunking happened: One of our hangar workers had hidden in a large trash can right outside the door, and on cue, he stood up in the trashcan and dumped a full bucket of water over Grady! Oh yes, he was thoroughly dunked!

- ***Praise the Lord for allowing Grady to reach this milestone***
- ***Please pray that God would use Grady to touch people with His love and compassion***

FAMILY UPDATE

Karina and Robbie have hit a major bump in their life. Dave, Annie, and I will be traveling to Kentucky to support them in this and to take a short furlough. I will leave first and spend some time in Kentucky before Dave and Annie travel.

Nothing new on Sylvia in California. ☺

Thomas returned to Texas from his trip to Asia. His travel group was able to visit refugee camps, school, and clinics and learn about their needs and how engineering can help. They also met with different organizations to learn about the work already being done. They used their skills to repair various broken machines, like a generator. Thomas even got to meet up with our former MAF boss and his wife, who now work in Asia! Thomas' experience on this trip reinforced his desire to someday work in that part of the world, using his engineering skills to help people. Thomas made it Pennsylvania on the way home to be the best man in his best friend's wedding.

Annie's days are filled with school and spending time with friends whenever she can. The dry cool season is great for outdoor play, and the kids seem to have a bottomless amount of imagination to fill their playtime. ☺

- ***Please intercede for Karina and Robbie, for God to have His way and will through this***
- ***Thank the Lord with us for the opportunity to go to KY at this time***
- ***Please pray for God's continued care and love for Sylvia***
- ***Praise the Lord for the good trip Thomas had, and that he made it in time for his friend's wedding***
- ***Please pray that the Lord would continue to guide his path towards the future***
- ***Praise God with us for Annie's school and friends***

In our Bible study book for this term, I came across a gem for my heart: "What we see will violate what we know unless what we know dictates what we see." There are enough issues and problems in life that easily seem to contradict what we know about God. However, if we look at God first and what we know about Him, and place those in front of what we see around us, what we see will have the color of God on them. Kind of like "God-colored glasses." ☺ I need to pick up those glasses more often.

Thank you for being our partners in prayer!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins

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