



LePoidevin Prayer Release

Dear Praying Family and Friends,

THE WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

MARCH 2018

Do you like watching the Olympic Games? Isn't it thrilling to watch the athletes perform such marvelous feats, breaking old records left and right? These athletes enjoy what they are doing, but it comes with a price, a price they are willing to pay. For one thing, they have to follow a strict meal plan. They cannot eat just what they want and when they want it. They also have to spend hours in rigorous and well planned out exercises to keep their bodies at peak performance. Sometimes, they have to be away from home to do special training, like high-altitude running, in preparation for a specific competition that will be held in a high-altitude location.

Our ministry as missionary pilots and mechanics is somewhat similar to the life of these Olympic athletes. Most of the time is spent with the mundane: doing the inspections at set times, ordering parts, managing the bookkeeping, keeping all the legal documents for each airplane in order, organize the local workers and projects they work on, and much more. It's time consuming, and yes, boring, at times. However, just as the athletes follow strict plans in order to perform their best when it counts, we strive to keep everything that has to do with the airplanes: the tools, the parts, skills, and much more, at their peak condition. And, just as a speed runner will run many miles on other days than the competition itself in order to keep himself fit and ready, we make many flights that keep the finances and skills fit and ready.

You don't see much of what the Olympic athletes do apart from the competition itself, but there is no doubt they would not have been able to compete in the Games except for all the hard work done preparing for them. Moreover, were it not for the goal of participating, and winning, in a certain competition, they would not stick with the grueling preparations. So with us. We do not tell you that much about what it takes to keep the wheels turning, we tell you about the exciting flights we are able to make because of all the mundane work done beforehand. Yes, sometimes we have to sacrifice, but what a joy for both us AND you when all the work of preparation builds the Kingdom of God! That is our goal and what keeps us going!

- ***Praise God with us that we and you can have a part in growing the Kingdom of God in Mozambique***
- ***Please pray for us all to have the goal in sight when daily life is demanding***

FINALLY IT HAPPENED

Back in January, the Flying Doctor Project flight to Niassa had to be cancelled. It had rained much the previous days, and the airstrips in Niassa were too soft for landing. We thought of the many isolated people up there who had been waiting for the doctor team to come and help them with their medical needs, and we were disappointed, to say the least. The team made plans for another trip in February.

The days around the February trip was also rainy (it WAS the rainy season, after all), and this time it was the Nampula weather that put a stop to the trip. The team (pilot, doctor, nurse, volunteer) met at the airport three early mornings in a row, but once more disappointed, they had to give up. Still hopeful, a flight in March was planned.



Only days before the March flight, the doctor informed the team that he had to attend a required course just the two days that were scheduled for the Niassa flight. Talk about disappointing!

But God would have none of that, and the following weekend, the



trip finally happened! Holly, the pilot, was able to take the team to visit all three of the clinics. The doctor did check-ups, saw sick patients, and the team had a meeting with a community service group at one of the airstrips.

The goal for future trips is to bring back to Nampula the patients who need non-emergency surgeries (like hernia). In order for that to happen, we need to have certain things in place: somewhere for them to be when they are out-patients and just need to return to the hospital for a check-up, and people to receive them and walk them through the process. Patients coming in from the bush are very overwhelmed at being in a strange, big city, and the hospital staff is not known for taking much interest in bush patients with limited Portuguese language. Unless there are people with them who can push through for them, they are often left to themselves in the hallways, neglected.

- ***Praise the Lord that the flight happened at last!***
- ***Please pray for the development and growth of this project, for all that is needed for it to be successful***

FAMILY UPDATE

Spring is in the coming, and both Karina and Robbie are happy about that. Karina is preparing her garden, and Robbie is getting back into his pottery making.

Sylvia's move to San Francisco went really well, and she is doing great in her new job.

Thomas is certainly learning to be patient and wait for God's timing and plans! He still does not know about the language study in Asia, which was to start early April. He did choose to take the job offer for a position in Illinois, starting in August. He just is not sure what he will be doing between now and then. ☺

Annie turned eight years old this month! She loves to plan parties, and planning her own started months ago. ☺ She invited nine friends, and all of them came. Annie and I collaborated on the games, then we all enjoyed cake and ice cream. After the presents were opened, the final hour of the afternoon was spent in our pool.



- ***Please pray for continued progress and long-lasting improvements for Robbie***
- ***Thank the Lord with us that Sylvia's move went well***
- ***Please continue to pray for Thomas, that God would show him what to do till August***
- ***We are thankful for Annie and how she is growing in wisdom and stature***

We just celebrated Easter, and I hope it was very wonderful for you all! As a family, we watched the movie "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" (or as Annie says: "It should be The Wardrobe, the Witch, and the Lion" ☺) on Easter Sunday. It brought tears to my eyes to watch that kind, good, majestic (but not tame ☺) lion walk willingly to the stone table, with the White Witch and all her cronies cheering and dancing as the lion lay there bound. The White Witch thought she had won and would rule Narnia forever when she thrust the knife into Aslan's body. But, oh, did she have a surprise waiting for her! If there is one story with a particularly happy ending, this is the one! And IT'S TRUE! It's not just a story; Jesus really lives and has conquered death and sin forever!

Thank you for praying for us as we serve our risen Savior!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins