

November 1998

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Moody Aviation and the beautiful hills of eastern Tennessee! This has been a busy but exciting year for me. Last year's events make me more thankful for many things—especially your investment in my life.

Over the last 25 years, you have been faithful prayer and financial partners with my parents. You have shared in the work of the Great Commission by investing in my parents and their involvement in supporting Bible translation. Your investment has also extended to two sons born to them while they were in the Philippines.

Thanks in part to your investment, we've had the unique privilege of growing up as missionary kids. We've seen the seed of the Word being sown, and the harvest reaped. Without your involvement, this opportunity would not have been possible.

I also want to thank you for your prayers and support over this last year, as I have dealt with the reality of Crohn's. As the summer of 1997 approached, I was accepted to train at Moody Bible Institute and began preparing to leave for summer school in May. But the Lord had other plans. In April, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

Because of the nature of the Crohn's, my plans to attend summer school were put on hold as I began to deal with the disease's implications. As my parents and I struggled through various treatment options, I felt the desire to have the elders of our church pray for me. I had this opportunity in August, and it was a privilege to share with the elders and have them pray for me. I also began a modified diet. As I sought the direction of the Lord regarding aviation and Moody, I continued to feel a strong leading toward Moody. So after a lot of prayer, I left in late August to attend Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

This was a significant step of faith. I knew God would have to work a miracle. But through Crohn's, God has raised up a prayer team for me and has answered those prayers in amazing ways. I cannot describe the encouragement your prayers have been to me!

More than one year later, I continue to be symptom free from Crohn's. During my year in Chicago, I was able to play varsity volleyball, complete 38 credits in my two semesters in Chicago, attend Evaluation camp in June and begin the first of three years at Moody Aviation this summer.

Now I am almost halfway through the Missionary Aviation program at Moody, which consists of two years in Chicago, Illinois, and three years at Moody Aviation in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Bible, general and missionary courses take up the first two years. Then the training moves to Moody Aviation in Tennessee. This part is technical and results in receiving the aviation maintenance rating and instrument and commercial flight certificates. Although sometimes it is necessary to build additional flight time and repay school debts, Moody graduates have completed most of the necessary training to serve overseas.

To sum up a pretty good year, I'm praising God for:

- Answered prayer for my health.
- Debt-free completion of my year in Chicago through special financial gifts.
- God's raising of a prayer team through Crohn's and answered prayer over this last year.

I'm still in prayer for:

- Discipline and balance with my time during this busy schedule.
- Sale of my Toyota truck to help pay for schooling.
- Understanding and retention of detailed material.
- Wisdom for the summer of 1999. I need to work, but there is virtually no time to work while in training. My brother and I would like to return to the Philippines to visit since we have not been back since 1988.
- I am also praying about combining a trip to the Philippines with a summer missions trip. By this summer, I should have my maintenance certificate so I could assist in a maintenance role.

Thanks again for the impact you've made in my life through prayer and great encouragement. May you continue to gain knowledge of the love of God as you continue to serve Him.

In Him,

Robert Peterson

Psalm 16