

May 1999

Dear Friends,

It is hard to imagine that four months have already past since my last prayer letter, yet so much has happened since then. Just prior to Christmas break, I successfully completed my Oral, Practical and Written exams for my Airframe Certificate. This allows me to inspect, repair and service the components on an aircraft except for the engine.

I spent Christmas break in Costa Mesa with Todd. I also saw some friends from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and my grandparents in Sacramento whom I had not seen in a couple years. Todd and I had a very enjoyable time together and it was exciting to see him fly his first solo flight. He is taking flight lessons at John Wayne International airport so it was very impressive to see him taxiing down the ramp next to a Boeing 757. Ask me sometime about his Christmas present to me: a ride in a small extremely aerobatic plane with an experienced pilot.

Half of our class, including myself, moved into Powerplant for the Spring semester. This course includes all aspects of inspecting, servicing and rebuilding of most small aircraft engines. It has been a full semester with many instructive and enjoyable projects. As this semester closes, we are once again preparing for our Oral, Practical and Written exams.

In my last prayer letter, I shared about the possibility of my brother and I visiting the Philippines this summer. I received the tickets for the Philippines in the mail this week. Todd and I are very excited about the opportunity to see mom and dad and to return to our childhood home. It has been many years since I have been overseas, so I am also looking forward to seeing a mission aviation program in operation. School finishes May 28<sup>th</sup> and I will be flying to Los Angeles on June 1<sup>st</sup> to meet Todd. We leave that night for the Philippines and will be there for 21 days, the most allowed on a visitor's visa.

Although I looked into working as a volunteer overseas this summer, I plan to return to Waxhaw until returning to Elizabethton to begin classes on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Ideally, I would like to work as a mechanic somewhere so that I review the many things I have learned. However, it may be difficult since I will only be in Waxhaw about 6 weeks. Another possibility is working at the JAARS hanger as a volunteer, which would provide a lot of valuable experience.

I am involved in a number of other activities here during the year. One of the most significant is the opportunity I have to encourage and disciple Adam. Adam is originally from Ohio and began college in the fall of 1997 at Ohio State. At that time, he did not know the Lord and life was beginning to catch up with him. Two weeks into the semester, he was already failing academically and personally. Through the faithful prayers of his grandmother, the Lord used this time to work in his life and he decided to move down here to Tennessee and spend some time with his cousin who "happened" to be a believer. During his first three weeks, he got back on his feet again and decided to move down here more permanently. Through one of our graduates, he moved into this house and accepted the Lord shortly before I moved into the house. Last month we celebrated his first spiritual birthday. It has been a privilege to share and pray together and watch him grow.

Lord willing, I will be returning to Moody Aviation August 18th to begin flight training. I have already received my FAA Flight Physical, which is required for flight training, without any limitations related to my history with Crohns. Praise the Lord! Although this is the beginning of the flight training program, we will actually spend one week in flight training and one week working in the hanger. During this year of flight training, I will receive my Private pilot certificate, which allows me to carry passengers, and my Instrument rating which allows me to navigate solely by instruments. This is an important year for establishing good flight habits, procedures and navigation techniques.

The Lord also continues to encourage and disciple me spiritually. During this year, I have read and mediated a lot on what it means to "Hope in the Lord". I have especially appreciated David's expression of this in Psalms 42, 62 and 147. Thank you for praying with me regarding the selling of my truck. Praise the Lord, the truck sold in January, but the Lord also used it as a special practical project in trusting Him. Also, thank you for praying for God's provision for my finances. God has provided in remarkable ways and I am presently debt free. These next two years will be the most expensive ones though because of the flight training.

I am deeply grateful for your faithful prayers for me as I have seen the Lord work physically and spiritually in my life. I would appreciate your continued prayers for:

- a strong finish of this semester
- my brother and I as we travel to the Philippines
- wisdom for summer plans
- continued financial provision, especially with the visit to the Philippines

Thank you for your partnership and investment in my life.

In Him,

Robert

Psalms 62:5-7

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my might rock, my refuge.