

November 5, 1999

Dear Friends,

It has only been several short months since my last letter, yet it seems like so much has happened. As you know, Todd and I took our first trip back to the Philippines this summer since leaving in 1988. Certainly both of us were looking forward to the visit, but we also wondered what it would be like. Would we remember anyone? Would we recognize our home? Would we still enjoy the food? Yes, Yes and Yes!



During our time, we had the chance to visit most of the places we knew as kids. Arriving at the Wycliffe center in Bagabag was definitely a homecoming. When we arrived, all the folks from the center were there to meet us. Of course, the first thing Todd and I did was kick off our shoes and go exploring. Probably the most common phrase during our first couple of days there was “Do you remember...?”

Although we had the chance to visit the beach and our old family vacation spot in the mountains, probably the most memorable experience of our time there was our trip to Mt. Pulog. Mt. Pulog is the highest mountain in the northern Philippines. At 9,600 feet, it is not easily accessible. We, however, decided to take an overnight road and hiking trip to the top. One Toyota 4WD truck, multiple river crossings, 10 hours and a million bumps later, we arrived at the entrance to “Mt. Pulog National Park” (a faded sign and empty ranger station). The final six miles were the roughest I had ever been on and ascending this mountain on a rainy, foggy night was an unforgettable experience. Early the next morning, we completed the 8 mile hike to the summit. Once there, we could still see Bagabag, where we had begun early the previous morning. Talk about a fresh perspective on missionary aviation!





I returned August 18th to begin my first year of flight training at Moody Aviation. Following Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance training which I completed last year, I have a total of two more years of school. This first year consists of Primary and Instrument flight. The second year includes a Commercial certificate (which is required for mission work) and specialized training that Moody provides as a mission aviation school. September 13th, I made my first solo flight (i.e. no instructor) and I guess I didn't scare them too badly, because they let me do it again the next day. This year has already proved to be busy, but I am enjoying the challenges each day brings.

Many of you know I was diagnosed with Crohns a couple summers ago. Through this summer, I was symptom-free of Crohns and felt that the Lord may have chosen to heal me. Crohns, however, is highly fluctual so without very expensive and uncomfortable testing, there was no way to know for sure. During our trip to the Philippines, I did experience a Crohns attack with its associated side-effects. Unfortunately, I had eaten a native fruit that I had grown up eating, but could no longer tolerate with Crohns. This was the first positive indication that the Lord had chosen not to heal me of Crohns. Certainly, this was not my preference, but through these last years the Lord has shown me His goodness and a glimpse into what it means to say, "God's grace is sufficient, for His power is made perfect in my weakness." I am also thankful as I realize that through your prayers the Lord has granted me excellent health these last two years. I continue to look to Him for health and wisdom as I seek to follow Him.

Thank you again for your prayers. They are a great encouragement to me and give me confidence to face the challenges of each day. Specifically, I would appreciate your prayers for:

- a strong spiritual passion for the Lord
- continued health and strength
- provision of tuition and flight costs
- and safety and vigilance while flying

In Him,
Robert Peterson

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