

September 2000

Dear

Has almost a year passed since my last letter? It is hard to believe the time has past so quickly. August 14, I returned to Elizabethton for my 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of training. So many things have happened over this last year. I am excited about sharing a few of those things with you.

As I sent my previous prayer letter, I was starting my first year of flight training and had just completed my first solo flight. Little did I know that I was in for the busiest year of my life. The remainder of the year was characterized by constant academic assignments, new flight projects and constant evaluation by the instructors. All of this was a necessary process and I deeply appreciate the one-on-one investment of each instructor. May 5th, 2000, I completed my instrument checkride, the last requirement of 4<sup>th</sup> year training. Praise the Lord!

Fourth year was not only busy but also very stretching. Two of my daily verses included "But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God"(2 Cor 1:9) and "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." (1 Cor 3:5) I am convinced that this was exactly the question I needed to face. As new skills and procedures kept being added each flight, I began to wonder, "Can I do this?" I had to decide to rely on God's strength rather than on mine. Through these times the Lord really strengthened my dependence on Him and helped me finish the year strong. I also saw the Lord's unique provision for my finances so that I was able to complete another year debt-free!

After a rapid year of school, I spent an even quicker summer in North Carolina with my family. The Lord opened a great opportunity for me to work on the annual inspection of a Cherokee 180 for a local flight club in return for some flight time. Todd and I had the privilege of using this flight time credit to fly to Holland, Michigan for our family reunion. For the remainder of the summer, I worked construction and learned a lot about wiring and plumbing a log cabin.

Now I am back in Elizabethton starting my final year of training. Last flight week, I completed my initial checkout in a Bonanza, which is a six-place, retractable gear aircraft. Over the next few months, I will continue to do instrument training in the Bonanza with an emphasis on additional tools like autopilots and GPS systems. This year, I am looking forward to two trips to the Rocky Mountains to gain high-altitude mountain experience and the addition of a Commercial Pilot certificate. It is very exciting to see the Lord continue to open doors and confirm His leading.

If this is my final year, then what is next? Thankfully, the Lord knows all that. Usually for Moody Aviation graduates, the primary issues include paying off student loans incurred while at Moody, building additional flight and maintenance experience and finalizing decisions regarding a mission agency. I spent some time this summer looking at missions and I am looking forward to continuing that process at Moody's annual missions conference this fall.

Thank very, very much for your love, support and prayers. I would appreciate your continued prayers for:

- Spiritual growth and maturity
- Wisdom as I seek the Lord's direction for the future
- Safe and effective flight training
- Continued financial provision.

Your fellow pilgrim,

Rob Peterson  
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### **Taken from the January 2000 Moody Aviation Website – Student of the Month**

Growing up as a missionary's kid in the Philippines, mission aviation was an every day fact of life for Rob Peterson. His dad, after all, was a missionary pilot and helped establish a helicopter program in the Philippines for JAARS, which serves Wycliffe Bible Translators. So it was only natural for Rob to be interested in aviation from an early age. His passion for missions, however, came later in life. After spending a summer working for wealthy families in an affluent area of Charlotte, N.C., Rob said he realized he had no desire for what the world had to offer in terms of material wealth. Then, at a missions conference he attended at Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn., Rob felt the Lord calling him into missions. Rob is now a fourth-year flight student at Moody

Aviation and just earned his private pilot's license. The training has been a rewarding yet challenging time, Rob said. "It's been good, but it's been stretching," he said. "Not always in a fun way, but in a positive way. It's put me in the place where I realize there are things I can't accomplish on my own." Rob had the opportunity this past summer to revisit the Philippines, his first visit back in 10 years. Rob said it was amazing "to see places where when we left there wasn't a



Checking cylinder compressions on a Bonanza

believer, now there are churches there." While he hasn't decided which mission he would like to join after his training, he has developed a burden for Wycliffe and similar mission agencies involved in Bible translation. "I feel a deeper interest in Bible translation," he said. While at Moody Chicago's campus, Rob was able to work with several Mexican ladies, teaching them English as a second language. Rob has continued to do that here at Moody Aviation as he has tutored several of his fellow classmates. "One of the highlights for me has been to work with the Korean students."