



A story for the kids: First Solo

I pull the throttle back to nearly idle and throw down the last of my flaps to slow as much as possible to make the last turn in the pattern for final approach. I can't help but lock my eyes on the airspeed to confirm that I am able to slow the bird down enough to land without breaking it, but as the runway approaches I try to remember what to do. Too fast: less power-pitch up. Too slow: more power- pitch down. Trying to hold the runway markers in one spot while being tossed by the crosswind, trying to keep it aligned. As my mind races, I glance over to see the empty space where my instructor usually fills; I wasn't crazy, I really am doing this solo. Now the heart's racing! I ponder: "What was I thinking!?", and "Help me Jesus!" as my screams fall towards the earth with a life eradicating velocity. Landing checklist complete, clear to land, runway clear, wind check, DG aligns my voice cracks... Here it comes. I pitch up and the runway disappears. I try to keep it straight as the stall warning screams an awful pitch of "I ain't flying anymore", and then EEEERRREAAAAA. I pull as hard as I can and apply the brakes to finally stop. I look around to make sure this is real and that im not really dead, wipe away my tears, check to see if I wet my pants, and then I think to myself: "Nailed it".

I'm flying an airplane! It's hard to believe that a school would be crazy enough to send me out in a plane, let alone allowing me to fly all over the state by myself! More on that later, now I will let my wife give you a quick update.

Hi, it's Tricia. As most of you know I graduated from the University of Iowa's social work program last summer. Alex and I were married in August, and then moved to Spokane, Washington to work for a year before returning to Moody Bible Institute to finish his last two years of the mission aviation program. Over the past year Alex worked at a small company restoring WWII aircraft (like the one pictured on top), and I found a job with the Arc of Spokane. Throughout the year Alex gained a lot of great aviation experience at his job, and I gained the understanding that I am not cut out for care taking. As I struggled through a difficult first job and moving far away from everything I had always known for the first time, as a couple we were also going through the newlywed learning curve. Needless to say, it was rough there for a while. However, Christ was at work and is continuing to work in and through us despite ourselves. As we find ourselves in year two of married life, I have a new job, Alex has returned to school full time, we are growing deeper in relationship with our church family, and most of all, we are grateful to be able to look back at all the ways God has grown us over the past year. We are looking to the future, and pretty excited about it!



Back to Alex again. For those of you who are wondering **what you are reading, why you are reading it, what it means and the reason of the letter**; let me tell you now.

You are reading a life update/prayer letter from Alex and Patricia Ludvick. We intend on using this to keep all of you who are close to Trish and I up to date on where life is taking us. We hope that this causes you to get pumped and interested in what we do, so that you can join and partner with us in this ministry.

You are reading it because you are: a close relative and/or friend, and we love you.

“Now what does all of this mean!” you might ask. First of all, I am currently in a school where I am trained to be a pilot/mechanic in order to fix and fly airplanes in an area of the world where they are used as tools to bring the gospel of Jesus to people in many different ways. You might think of this as a bush pilot, humanitarian aviator, or just a really cool occupation, all of which are correct, but what I am going to serve as primarily is a missionary. Mission aviation is used in place of other modes of transportation to bring supplies, people (sick and healthy) and the gospel to places where walking, canoing, driving, etc. is not possible, or would take an exorbitant amount of time, resources and sometimes lives to get to. The school I am training at is called Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, Washington. The entire program is 5 years long, where the first year is bible classes, second and third are maintenance training where I received an aircraft mechanic license, and the last two years are flight training intermingled with maintenance where I will receive first a private pilot license, then instrument rating, commercial license and a Bachelor's in Science in Mission Aviation Technologies (emphasis on flight). Currently I am on my fourth year and I am almost done with my private pilot license certification.



The reason Trish and I are all the way out in Washington state studying at Moody is because we feel called and have a desire to serve Jesus overseas. Within the next 4 years we hope to be serving with a ministry aimed to bring the gospel to a people group who have never heard the name of Jesus before. The reality of this calling is that we cannot do this by ourselves. Because you have made it this far in the letter, we would like to invite you to participate with us in the great commission that God has called us to. Just as astronauts needing the support of NASA to go to the moon, or NASCAR drivers needing their pit crew to finish the race, we need the support of the Church to succeed. We can't go solo. Some ways you can participate with us are through prayer and financial support. Financially speaking, as missionaries in training, we cannot continue the training without your financial support. The school requires a constant influx of tuition due to fuel consumption of the aircraft, with the total bill over the final two years at approximately \$70,000. What we primarily need, however, is a constant flow of prayers. This is the fuel that drives this mission, and our tanks need to be full! We count this as our top priority and will be joining you in your prayers. All in all, we need and would love your support.

Trish and I would like to thank you for reading our letter and would love to hear from you if you have any questions, comments or want to chat. We will also be sending more letters in the future to keep you updated. -In Christ, Alex and Trish Ludvick

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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise that Trish found a job!
- Alex's safety during flights & focus on studying (certification exams soon!)
- Continued personal/spiritual/marital growth for both of us
- Financial support through training