

THE LUDVICEK FLIGHT REPORT

September 2017



I (Tricia) was sitting in the MAF common area this week idly having a conversation with a fellow pre-fielder about the struggle of leaving family, about packing and traveling. Then she said it, "...it's only four more months." FOUR?!! I thought for sure it was longer. Come to think of it, things have been moving so quickly recently that I have only had the capacity to process the next thing right in front of us. It turns out that our leave date is a little more "right in front of us" than I was counting on.

This summer has been both beautiful and trying. Between the three week process of moving out of our apartment, the commencing weeks of constant travel and a teething baby, our lives have been in a state of upheaval. Yet there have been so many little blessings along the way including reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, just about reaching our support goal, and enjoying the mountains (which are a little sparse in Iowa).

Training for the Field



Moody flight class reunion with some of our instructors

Here at MAF headquarters, my (Alex) first week of standardization was filled with flight ground school. The goal was to learn the ins and outs of how MAF missionaries fly, including all the procedures and margins that keep the pilots, cargo and passengers safe through dangerous terrain and less-than-ideal airstrips.

The next week was ground school for maintenance on the PT6A engine found in the Kodiaks and Caravans used in Papua. These engines are complicated, and now after 2 weeks of theory, I know just enough to get me in trouble! The next 2.5 weeks will be in the shop, putting theory to the wrench to better prepare for the field.

But wait—there's more! For three weeks after that there is the actual flying, putting theory to the controls. We will practice terrain flying, emergency procedures and learn how to take off and land on the tiny airstrips of the Idaho mountains similar to those found in Papua... almost.

*"Sharing the love of Jesus Christ through aviation and technology
so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed."*

MAF
Mission Aviation Fellowship

Keeping Perspective



Although we are still months and miles from our final destination, right now MAF-ers in Papua are hard at work. Since nothing gets us fired up for this journey like stories of how God is already moving there, we thought we would share one with you.

One village MAF serves in Papua is blessed to have a medical clinic. This clinic serves not only the town itself, but many of the surrounding tribes who have no other access to medial care. A river running through the area allows the region access to the goods and supplies it needs by boat. However, there is an annual phenomenon that occurs there where grass grows along the edges of the river, then gradually invades the river until the entire surface is blocked by a thick grass mat.

Recently, over the course of months the river became impassable. By the time MAF was called in the clinic was virtually out of supplies. A float plane was the perfect tool to get in and out where walking, driving and even boating couldn't reach, MAF pilots had the opportunity to fly in nearly 4,000 pounds of medical supplies to the clinic so that people's needs could be met. What a tangible way to show Christ's love to those who need it!

Prayer Topics Ahead:

- Solid finish with training here at HQ and safety while flying and traveling.
- We still need support for both ongoing and one-time/ start-up costs.
- There have been some delays on visas from Indonesia lately, please pray that ours make it through in time.
- When we finish training in November we will spend the holidays at home in Iowa. We look forward to time to wrap everything up there and be with family. Then we plan to be on an airplane for language school in Salatiga early January.



Someone replaced our baby with a toddler when we weren't looking!



Alex, Trish & Jack

Current Financial Status

Monthly support



98%

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Stay Connected



As we continue our preliminary training, we would love to stay connected with you.

In addition to our blog you can find us on Instagram (@mafaviator) and Twitter (@mafaviator).

Of course our phones and emails are always standing by if you have any questions or would like to set up a time to connect before we leave.