

The Ludvick Flight Report

Winter 2014



30 seconds to ETA and nothing. "OK, the airport should be right around this abandoned dirt road" I said, but nothing that resembled an airstrip was anywhere around. Then it clicked, "OH SNAP! That's the airstrip!" followed by a sly fist bump from my instructor. "Clearing myself to land ladies, hold on back there" I say to my giddy passengers. The male student shook his head. My final approach was aiming for a small dark patch of dirt just past a bunch of weeds. Power back, pitching up and adding a little power for the soft field landing, and touchdown. Everything rattles. A little bumpier than I thought it would be, but the touchdown was perfect. Approaching the end of the "runway" the instructor yells "POWER!" I add full throttle as I start to feel like the airplane was being sucked into the ground beneath us...

Greetings friends and family!

We hope this letter finds you well and rested after the wonderful, yet brisk Christmas season. Trish and I just returned from our Christmas back in Motherland Iowa after celebrating our first two away from home. Being with family was so wonderful and was a pleasant distraction from the arctic environment outside; although, it was the most fun I have ever had blowing bubbles (they froze if you were confused).

Last semester was filled with crazy adventures on and off campus. For starters, Trish and I just moved into one of our church elder's basement. If that doesn't seem like an adventure, try living with three boys under 5 and tell us otherwise. We are learning a lot. Parents, we salute you. Mom and Dad, I'm sorry. December ended the most exciting semester in college that I have ever had. It concluded what I call the "bush pilot" section of training where I prepared and embarked on a two week extended cross-country adventure. The trip is one of the top on my "Most Amazing Things I Have Ever Done" list. The story above is an excerpt from a blog entry on our website. There, you can find out more information from the trip, see some pictures and videos, and keep up to date on all of our adventures. You can also sign up for this letter to be sent to your email if you would like.

This coming semester is my last at Moody Aviation, and I will be starting the daunting instrument phase of my flight training. Instrument flight is flying in meteorological conditions where outside visibility is an issue (like clouds and fog), and the pilots rely on their instruments and radio/GPS navigation to safely fly from airport to airport almost exclusively without looking outside. It's an entirely new way of flying compared to the way I am used to, and it requires a lot of training, many hours of studying along with lots of prayer from your end! This rating is also needed in order for me to receive my commercial rating. Although intimidating, it will be a period of growth for both Trish and I, and is all part of the final mountain to climb before finally graduating and moving forward on the path towards mission flying overseas.

We would like to thank all of you again for supporting us financially and through prayer this last semester. Through God's provision we are "debt free" (see our website under "Current Finances" for more info)! However, we will continue to need support throughout this semester in order to fly and thus complete this stage of training. If you would like to partner with us, have any questions, or would like to know how to pray for us, you can look up information on the website. If you would like to call or email us, we will be glad to answer any of your questions. God bless and keep your eyes on eternity!

His, Alex and Patricia Ludvick

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