

Propelling the Gospel

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Director's Cut

This year has been crazy as usual. Just like the seasons, you just never know what is coming your way.

It is exciting to see how the Lord is adapting our ministry, with various people joining PTG Missions, while others have been led to move on. In the first quarter of 2021 Alec finished the interim pulpit ministry at the Pleasant Valley Bible Church in Bethel, as the Lord answered their prayer and provided a new Pastor! After finishing, Alec proceeded to fill various pulpits across the state allowing Pastors a time of encour-

agement and refreshment that was much needed. In July, Baptist Park held their annual flight camp and outdoor weeklong camp, where Alec was asked to be the camp Pastor. At flight camp the teens got various amounts of flight training with Todd (PTG Pilot) both in the Warrior and Todd's flight club airplane (C172). Jeremy (PTG A&P Mechanic), who had attended Baptist Park Flight Camp in his teens, returned the investment and taught aircraft maintenance of a PA-28 and a C172. During the day Alec would float between the two camps and enjoy building relationships with the campers. Each evening Alec preached from Psalms 119 as the

group looked at the crucial role of the Bible for our days ahead. It was amazing to see the hearts of a few teens, mold to what the Word of God said. "There is nothing like walking through Scripture and concluding the night next to a large bonfire as you can hear the teens sing "How great is our God," Alec explained. In August, PTG held their fourth annual flyout weekend where guest speaker, Pastor Tim Kezar of the New Covenant Baptist Church in Berwick, Maine, spoke out of Hebrews 11 and 12 on "A cloud of Witnesses". Campers would get the opportunity to fly to a mission each day that was paralleled with the outreach ministry of the Pleasant




Valley Bible Church, in West Bethel, Maine. This was a great community reaching event, where the teens cleaned windows for a church member, weeded a couple's garden, help load goods from a community yard sale, and help setup and clean a local food pantry.

PTG Missions has been blessed in many ways. Multiple churches have decided to support financially on a monthly basis. One can only wonder what the Lord is preparing.

There are a few uncertainties moving forward from our perspective. First, the airport is currently for sale and could change restrictions from an aviation perspective. Most airports would not allow us to run events like a flyout weekend right at the airfield. There is also some discussion that a Marijuana growth facility may go in the main hangar at the airport. With these uncertainties the leadership team would encourage you to join with us in prayer as how the Lord would have us move forward. Do we find land and build our own grass runway? Do we relocate camp to another airfield? What is wonderful about our earthly perspective is that it is not the final answer,

but the Great I AM holds the full painting in His hands and sees much farther than we do. We Trust Him! Secondly, after camp we found a small amount of corrosion on the hub of our propeller. The maintenance team decided that we should send it in for overhaul since the propeller has collected over 10,000 hours total. After evaluation, the propeller shop has notified us that the propeller has failed inspection and is no longer repairable. We are thankful for a maintenance team who has the skills to see these warning signs and felt the need to send it out. Currently the estimated cost of a new propeller is \$5,600. One may feel that this is negative news, but think about the 10,000 hours of encouragement, mission flights, and

flight training/preparations for foreign missions! This aircraft has done just that through PTG, Liberty University, and the Smyrna Flight School in Tennessee. This old scrap propeller will be hung up in the PTG hangar as a memorial to all those hours of much ministry.

Moving forward, we Trust Him! Every year so far as a ministry, our team has had to learn to rely on God. We are thankful for that opportunity to do it again. "Propelling the Gospel" has no propeller, the very tool that allows this airplane to "go". But we have a God and Savior who is our Guide and very reason we 'Go, by air or ground, as we continue to "Propel the Gospel" here in New England. 

Family Front

Alec is on his last semester at South African Theological Seminary and is looking forward to being more involved within his local church and with PTG Missions. Alec and Brianna are excited to also announce the anticipated arrival of their third child, a baby girl due in May of 2022. Brianna and the baby are healthy and making daily strides for the better. Bennett is doing well in school and attending AWANA with his brother Asher each week.



REPORT FROM THE DENNYYS

Hello to all of our PTG friends and supporters back in Maine,

To those of you who haven't heard, we have moved to Michigan for flight training for Josiah at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT). This has been quite a big change for our family, leaving all of our family and friends behind in Maine.

Josiah has been interested in being a missionary pilot for many years but through several times of actively pursuing it, the Lord has shut the door decidedly every time. At the end of summer of last year, Josiah said to Kayla, "If God doesn't have missionary pilot in the future of our family, how do you feel about a professional pilot career?" It was then that we decided to pray about it and move forward; watching God open

and shut doors where He willed. All of our friends, family and counselors were all on board (which is crazy)!

Traveling back in time to March 2019, as you may recall, PTG sent us both to Sun 'n Fun in Florida to represent the organization at the missionary aviation tent there. While we were there, we met many great people and missionary organizations dedicated to using flight to do missions work. One training organization in particular stood out to us: SMAT.

Now coming back to the fall of 2020, we got in contact with SMAT, and in January of 2021 applied for the flight program. Before we even expected, we were offered an amazing housing opportunity in Michigan, just 5 minutes from the school; a nice big farmhouse on shared farm property. After Josiah was accepted in February, things hap-

pened really fast and God just kept opening door after door, making it very clear that this was His will for us. We sold our house and moved out to Michigan, just 6 days after PTG camp in August.

The academic rigor of flight school as well as being so far away from loved ones have proved to be very challenging. We have been blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful people and a great SMAT community. We are getting plugged into a great local church and have seen some beautiful Michigan sights. Our favorite so far has been the beaches and also running the sand dunes in our Suburban along Lake Michigan. Josiah is enjoying every minute of his flight training. Kayla and the kids are busy home-schooling, touring the local area, and enjoying new friends.

Praises

- For where God has brought us and the means He used to make it all happen.
- Helping us find a good local church.

Prayer Requests

- For Kayla and the kids to find friends closer to home.
- Health for our family (We've been battling different sicknesses almost nonstop since arriving).
- Endurance for Josiah as he struggles to keep up with the pace of the flight program.

So where are we going from here? We really have no idea. Josiah knows he likes airplanes with propellers on them and has always been interested in bush flying. That doesn't really mean anything to us yet though. We are resting only in the fact that we know that this is where God would have us be for right now. We would appreciate your prayers for God to guide us in our future as well.


Blessings to you all,
Josiah, Kayla, Marshall, Titus, Gabriel, Esther,
and Owen Denny.

REPORT FROM NOAH AND CAITLIN RUSSELL

Caitlin Russell

Hello everyone, It has been a while since I have given an update. Around this time two years ago, I believe, was the last time I wrote an update for the PTG newsletter. A lot has changed in two years! In the time since you last heard from me, I got engaged, finished my two years at Ethnos 360 Bible Institute, moved home, watched my brother get married, volunteered at Propelling the Gospel camp, and got married myself. Let's just say it has been an eventful couple of years. This summer, in the whirlwind that it was, I was able to volunteer at PTG's weekend camp. This camp helps give young adults a vision for the need of Christ in the mission field that is the state of Maine, and a taste of how aviation supports this need. The campers as well as the volunteers were drawn together by fellowship, service, and aviation. This year I was able to be part of the outreach group that was traveling up to Bethel, Maine to help the community there. I was the wheels to the ordeal with Rebecca Sampson being the other volunteer assisting with driving and organizing the campers once they arrived in Bethel. In the morning of the first day of camp, Rebecca and I left in the minivan to be prepared for the team of campers to fly into the airport at Bethel. When Rebecca and I made it to Bethel we met the Pastor who had arranged our service

opportunities for the day. Once the campers arrived, we all made our way to the first stop in our service time for the weekend. We went and helped a couple in the community weed their garden. It took the young adults very little time to weed the area, even in the quite hot conditions. I was encouraged by the teens' attitudes and enjoyed watching them fellowship while uprooting weeds. Little did we know that while we were pulling weeds, the plane had never left the airport in Bethel to pick up our second team that was coming up. Due to a flat tire on the airplane, we had a change in plans for that day, which should never be a surprise in ministry or in life. The second team learned the true adventure of missions aviation by fixing the plane. As the first team finished up their work at the garden, the second team loaded into a vehicle and drove up to Bethel to fix the tire on the plane. The first team, having finished their project at the garden, loaded back into the van and drove to a food pantry to help organize and fill boxes. This time was followed by sandwiches and relaxing before we began the drive home. It was a true joy to watch the young adults enjoy their time in Bethel serving. I was left refreshed by watching the fellowship and service that took place over just a quick weekend adventure. The rest of the weekend went in a blur, from enjoying times of worship, to learning to work on different pieces of a plane, to the young adults taking a swim

in Watchic Lake. It was a great weekend of fellowship and service to a community made right next door by aviation. It was a joy to be able to volunteer this year and to experience serving with an awesome group of people. It is a blessing to watch God work in and through this ministry. Thank you for all those who supported PTG to help make the camp possible, and for all the volunteers who took time to show up and be involved. 

Noah Russell

Hey everyone, a lot of you may not know me, but my name is Noah Russell. In just a bit I'll share a bit about a trip Alec and I took up to a church near Bar Harbor, ME. First, I want to share a little bit of my background and story in order to introduce myself. I'm from Minnesota, and I have to say it never crossed my mind that I would be living in Maine someday. But hey, God is good! He works in amazing ways. And though I still am not all that old, I can look back and admire the work of God. By God's grace, He allowed me to be apart of a mission minded Christian family. My brother and sister are adopted from Haiti and my grandparents started a school in Haiti. What an amazing opportunity this was to be able to experience missions in this way. God used this along with other things to open my eyes to the need around the world. At the same time

as all of this, I always loved airplanes, a little too much you could say.

My passion for aviation was ignited when someone brought me his knee board with an e6b flight computer, which are tools that a pilot can use. That was it. Flying became an obsession. I was able to have some cool experiences with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Haiti and missionary aviation became a pursuit. I have to say, it is amazing the way in which God works! I had the privilege to work on my flight ratings for a few years back in the great state of Minnesota with the intent of going on into missionary aviation.

Then God brought another great opportunity. I never planned on going to college. However, thanks to my mentor, I had a conversation with a couple of guys who were going to be headed to the mission field with Ethnos 360, formerly New Tribes Mission. I remember them coming to my church back in Minnesota and unrolling the list of the unreached people groups

around the world. I believe they call it the "sad list". The print wasn't big, and the list was long. If you take the time to look, it is amazing how many groups of people around the world still have never heard of Jesus, or have had the opportunity to hear the Gospel, even after two thousand years. As one teacher put it, they have been in darkness since the Tower of Babel. It is so sad. This eventually led me to attend the two-year program at Ethnos 360 Bible Institute. This school is a step in preparing missionaries to go and serve with Ethnos 360. Oh, and for those who don't know, this is where I met

Caitlin (formerly) Roberts. We were married this fall and are excited for what God has for us in the future. God is so good. You may see where this is going, airplanes and missions. There is a need for missionaries and pilots to support these missionaries in the places which they serve. People around the world need to hear this good news of the Gospel and Caitlin and I are in the process of preparing to go in that direction to serve unreached people, if that is where the Lord leads. We are in a season of training heading toward either church planting or missionary aviation overseas.




And this is where Alec and PTG come into the picture. Again, I say God is good! As plans were being made for the future, I was wondering when and where I was going to go to get my Aircraft Mechanic training. I had been in touch with Alec, and I sent a text about if there were any apprenticeships out here in Maine. This led to the opportunity to be working with Alec at the Portland Jetport and learn aircraft mechanics at Northeast Air! I thank God and am amazed to see how He guides and opens doors. Now that I have moved to Maine, I have been able to get involved with

PTG. What a cool opportunity! I guess I had never really thought of there being mission aviation in the states, other than maybe Alaska. What an opportunity it is, as Caitlin and I prepare for what God may have for us in the future, to be able to serve here locally, because people in Maine need the Gospel just as much as anyone.

Being a pilot, I had the opportunity to accompany Alec on a flight up to Bar Harbor to visit a church. We were picked at the airport by a deacon of that church and were able to hear a bit about how the church was doing. We were able to join them for their Sunday School and their Morning Service. During the service Alec was able to give the message. This was followed by a time with the leadership of the church and a flight back to Limington.

This was a great opportunity. And for someone planning to go into full time ministry, it was a learning experience to watch how the church interacts with that.

Not only this, but it was also a good time of fellowship in the airplane. You are stuck together for the flight so might as well talk. Hopefully this was a time of encouragement for the church and a refreshment for the Pastor.

I conclude all this to say, God is so good. Getting to this point has been a journey, and it hasn't all been easy. However, God's plan is so much better than what we could ever come up with ourselves. I am excited to be able to serve with PTG in this way. I hope that this has been an encouragement to you. All glory be to God. 

STUDENT UPDATES



Amber Lynch

PTG 2021 Camp this past summer was so much fun! It was my 3rd year attending and I learned lots as usual! Along with spending time in the air, we also learned about how carburetors work, and I found that particularly fascinating. Right after camp this summer, I left Maine to begin my freshman year in college at Liberty University in Virginia to study Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Aeronautics. It has been going very well and I am very excited to begin ground school in the spring semester and start flying next fall! I am very grateful for the knowledge I have learned at PTG before going to college!



Matheus Ramalho

Hello everyone from Propelling the Gospel. This is Matheus Campos giving a little update on my life. I am so glad for the opportunity to be writing to you again.

This summer has been full of great things. I graduated from a four-year program at New Brunswick Bible Institute receiving a bachelor's degree in Biblical and Theological Studies. Then, God allowed me to start a flight training at Moncton Flight College located in New Brunswick, Canada, at the end of the summer.

The course began in September and its duration is twenty months. Throughout this time, the training will allow me to obtain a PPL, CPL, instrument rating, and a diploma in aviation technology. Just recently, I was sent on my first solo flight which was a great accomplishment for me and my career. I am certain God still has many other challenges to come and I will be trusting him all the way.

At the end of my training, I would like to use the skills learned to honor the One who allowed me to have them in the first place. Whether it will be in a work environment with an airline or on the mission field, I want to be a witness of Jesus Christ wherever I am. I hope you are all doing well. I will be praying for you and this amazing ministry.



Congrats to Nathan Jaffery on successfully passing his Private Pilot checkride! Praise the Lord who clearly is at work in Nathan's life!

Thank you to all those who joined us in prayer for funds to replace the propeller for our Warrior plane. We are now only \$1,000 shy of the funds we need. After 10,000 hours of flying the old propeller will be hung up in the hangar as a memorial to all those who trained for the mission field, encouraged others, and propelled the gospel forward since 1978.



January 15th at West Buxton Baptist Church
Tickets available on our website



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state of Maine and beyond.**



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