



The Youngs: Serving Christ through missionary aviation.

This fall, we formally applied to AIMAIR which mainly flies in northeastern Africa. The first steps were to get 14 different references and then go through a formal interview. The representatives came to our house at the end of October and conducted a 4.5 hour interview. It was long but we really enjoyed our time getting to know the Hendricks who were dorm parents at AIM's boarding school in Nairobi, Kenya.



Mike & Anna Palmiter

We were encouraged by them and could see how we could fit into the organization not just through aviation but their other ministries as well. Later that week, we had a chance to have lunch with a young couple, Mike and Anna Palmiter, who fly with AIMAIR as they were back for a wedding. This was actually the first time that Tija was really excited to be a part of this ministry as she talked with Anna and her role as a pilot's wife in Africa. Sounds like it could be a lot of hospitality which is right up Tija's alley!



Tija and I then had a quick get-away weekend in Chicago. It was a great time to get away together and refocus on the tasks at hand. Getting a chance to refine our newly formed strategies with some dear friends.

The fall also brought us a new roommate. Josh has come to stay with us until he gets married on February 15th.





We have really enjoyed having him with us and Tija and I are doing some pre-marital counseling with Josh and his fiancé before they tie the knot. I know that the kids will miss their big brother, although Joel has already claimed his room... Here's Josh indulging Seth and Sela in a rousing game of Candyland.

A friend of ours from small group gave us two tickets to a Michigan football game. I was out of town at a conference so Tija had the honor of taking Seth. At one point, he actually said, "Mom, it's like I'm having a dream!" Needless to say, he had the time of his life.



We made a whirlwind Thanksgiving run to MN for the weekend and then jumped headlong into the annual Ionia winter parade. Lots of decorating fun was had even though the temps dropped to single digits.

The kids are still enjoying school; one of their favorite events is the Christmas program put on by the elementary school. Our kids have a special spot in their hearts for the principal. It could be that he gives them treats when they go down to his office after school. Tija had to limit it to only one day a week. (Actually, he and his family are dear friends of ours here in MI)



This Christmas we had help from Chevy, a classmate, in cutting our tree down. He wanted to hone his lumberjack skills and the kids thought this would be the perfect place. We think he did a fine job. :-)





For a Christmas event, Tija organized a shoe-supply making project for her Bible study group through Sole-Hope. They enjoyed making shoe supplies that will be sent to an organization in Africa for women to make into shoes.



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Unlike last year, winter (and snow) arrived in Michigan before Christmas. The kids enjoyed all of the activities the snow had to offer. Although it does increase the beauty, it tends to make things harder for me to identify from the air during cross country flights. But what's life without some challenges?! :-). The day before Christmas break, I completed my High Performance endorsement. Which means I can

fly an airplane with an engine over 200 horsepower. Next on the list is a complex endorsement which is an airplane with flaps, adjustable prop, and retractable landing gear. As of this writing, 3 flights are in the books.

We made it back to MN for Christmas break and had a wonderful time with family and friends. Santa even came to Grandpa and Grandma Young's house and told the kids the main reason he does it is to share Christ's love with others. Our prayer is that we too are doing everything to share Christ's love with people we meet each day. Not looking too far ahead but living, loving, sharing and discipling where God has us now!



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