



The Youngs: Serving Christ through missionary aviation.

When I look back at the past 3 months, I see that we've had quite the roller coaster ride in the flight department at SMAT. We have had our retractable gear Cessna 172 need an engine overhaul because it had hit its time limit. Our Cessna 206 engine destroyed itself and needed to be overhauled (more on that later), and one of our simulators stop functioning properly. We are currently about 3 weeks behind schedule but, we are slowly making up ground by flying early and often! As of this writing, I have about 4 weeks of flight training left.



I am thankful that they are allowing us to help out a little with the maintenance; three of us were able to help take the engine off of the 172RG and get it sent out for overhaul. It is nice to be using my wrenches once in a while!

In June, we went on an advanced cross country trip to the Smoky Mountains. We were able to learn about things like ridge crossings, valley navigation and different mountain wind currents; something that is sorely lacking in the flat lands of Michigan. We were supposed to be down there for 5 days but on the beginning of the 4th day,



our engine showed some signs of distress. Praise God that we were able to turn back and land without incident. Upon inspecting the oil screens and filters, we found lots of metal shavings telling us that something was very wrong. We ended up leaving the plane in TN, renting a car and driving back to MI. God had certainly protected us from a potentially dangerous situation while we were flying over some pretty inhospitable terrain. Before it died, we got some great video of us flying in the mountains. You can see it on the blog page of our web site www.flyingforchrist.com



We have been blessed to join a fantastic organization called Proclaim Aviation. They specialize in bridging the gap between missionary aviation training and the mission field. Being a part of their team allows us access to their training experience and guidance as well as being a part of a non-profit organization. You can find more information about them at www.proclaimaviation.org as well as a little bit about us in their “our missionaries” section.

We are also still on course with joining AIMAIR. Our latest timeline has us doing a technical evaluation with them in December and then Orientation in the following September (2015). Until then, our plan is to stay in Michigan and have the kids attend school here one more year.

Before the kids’ school was out, Tija organized a large, multifamily garage sale. It was a huge success and made her think that maybe she could do one next year too...time will tell. The kids FINALLY finished school on June 19th; that’s what



16 weather days will do to your summer. I think they might not cheer so loudly next winter when snow days are announced. :-)



Tija has declared this the summer to camp. So far she and the kids have camped with our MI small group (I actually made that one too), with her parents and with the Webers who have blessed us with their joy-for-life for several weeks here in MI.



We praise God every day for our faithful support team and how you have kept us going through our time here in Michigan!!

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