

We are privileged to bring you another newsletter but in a brand-new format (to us anyway)

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I have been keeping busy at the SMAT hanger doing various inspections and repairs on the flight school's airplanes. I even got to take part in rebuilding an instrument panel for one of the airplanes. I love seeing the transformation from old to new!

First comes the rough-cut of the panel to fit the instruments...



...and then it is sent out for powder coating and the bottom panel is sent out to be CNC cut and laser etched.



At the end of February, Tija and I traveled down to Georgia and spent a week at the Africa Inland Mission headquarters. We met with the AIM staff and 20 other missionary candidates. Although the week had a rough start as the reality of our future away from home sank in; the AIM staff came around us, supported, encouraged, and equipped us for what is to come. By the end of the week, we really felt like we are a part of a team and **not** doing this crazy thing on our own.



One of our favorite times was meeting with our "small group" each afternoon and getting to know other missionary candidates on a deeper level. Tija promised to feed them all home-made pizza if I ever have a chance to pick them up in their tribe and fly them to our base. They will, of course, get to stay in our guest hut.

One of my favorite things from our week at AIM was getting our outgoing checklist. It is a 69-item checklist that can be done online to make sure we get all of our bases covered in a timely fashion before leaving for Africa. We currently have 19 items checked off and hope to check off more tomorrow!

The kids have been keeping busy with school and fun winter activities like sledding and fort-building. They even took part in the local children's theater's production of Bugsy

Malone Jr.



We finished off the kids' spring break with a quick drive up to Niagara Falls. It was a little bit windy, as you can see, but it made for shorter lines and more interesting pictures.

We are in the home stretch of our time here in Ionia, Michigan. Which meant painting, fixing, and more painting. Our house should be on the market in a day or two. It is bitter-sweet as we have loved our time here and definitely put down some deep roots. We have seen God's faithfulness throughout our journey. He continues to grow our faith to take the next steps into the unknowns of a new culture.





We ask that you pray with us as we transition from Michigan to Minnesota in June to finish building our support team. We are currently at 63% of our monthly goal. We need to be at 100% by the end of July.

Then in August, we will be headed to JAARS in North Carolina for 4 months of intense flight training before heading to Kenya in January. As always, we love to hear from our support team through emails, texts and phone calls! Our contact information will be on our web site as we become a nomad tribe. www.flyingforchrist.com

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