

# DERIK & ZOË

## F L E N S B U R G

*joining God in reaching the nations through aviation*



# the next steps.

## GRADUATION.

August, 2020. We hiked uphill on a hot, sunny day in formal wear. As we neared the peak, it felt like we were approaching the culmination of something monumental. Atop the rocks of Beacon Hill we had a panoramic view of Felts Field, where Zoë and I were trained in ministry, maintenance, and flight since 2013. Our graduation class photo was taken there. COVID-19 had delayed us a few months, but we were finally graduating from Moody Bible Institute's Missionary Aviation Technology program. There was a modest commissioning ceremony with social distancing and generous amounts of hand sanitizer. Zoë and I received our diplomas and began looking ahead. God gave us essential knowledge, skills, and experience, but we began asking Him, "Thanks Lord, now what's the next step?"

## OUR VISION

God reveals Himself to His creation so that they may be saved by Christ. He doesn't need people, but Jesus commands us to get involved by handing down the Great Commission. God uses people to reach others throughout the world and he uses missionary aviation in many ways to accomplish that. Zoë and I want to be a part of what God does to reach the lost. We want to use the knowledge and skills He has given us in aviation to solve logistical problems on the mission field. In the broad scope of missions, we want to see how advancements in aviation technology can be used to reach people. If you would like to learn more about how you can be involved in what God is doing, please reach out to us; we'd love to share with you!



*Derik taking Zoë up in the 182 to practice steep turns for CFI*



*Derik passes his FAA Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) checkride*



*A little high-speed recreation while visiting Derik's hometown*

**CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR** A spot in Moody's Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) course opened soon after graduation. After asking God for guidance, I joined the class and began training with the few graduates who elected to become flight instructors. My instructor was John Schmidt, a godly man who served with SAMAIR (South American Mission) in Peru. John has a well-honed knack for communicating principles of flight and instruction that made each briefing and flight an encouraging time. His stories from the mission field helped me to learn the value of using stories to teach my students in the future. The course was dense with lesson planning and flight preparation; God used that to grow me even further than I had through Commercial training just months prior. In January, I was able to pass my CFI checkride and am looking forward to CFI—Instrument this fall.

**VISITING ALASKA** After completing CFI, Zoë and I were able to visit my folks back in Alaska for some much needed R&R. Unfortunately, I injured my back just before we left and it made even the simple task of tying my shoes a struggle. Regardless, we were able to spend plenty of time catching up with family and friends. As we visited, we were still asking God where He would have us go and what He would have us do next. Many friends were encouraging and shared ideas like flying rural youths to bible camp, and helping plant a church on the Alaskan Panhandle. We prayed about these ideas as it was coming time to head back to Spokane. When Zoë and I returned from Alaska, she landed a job as a mechanic overhauling hydraulic propeller control systems at an FAA repair station not far from our apartment. We thanked God for the job and continued asking what our next step in ministry would be, and soon He answered.

**PROCLAIM & MOODY** Moody Aviation's director of safety, Garry Barkman, met with me and said that he'd been praying for someone to assist him in developing and running the school's safety management system. He said that I popped into his head, and after prayerful confirmation, Garry invited me to serve at Moody as an aviation safety management assistant. However, the school's limited budget did not allow for a new paid position. Instead, I would need to serve at Moody as a missionary fully funded by ministry partners. Many of Moody's staff are missionaries with Proclaim Aviation Ministries and are loaned to Moody to gain the hours and experience needed to step into roles with other missionary aviation agencies. Zoë and I prayed, and then after further meetings we accepted the invitation to serve at Moody through Proclaim Aviation Ministries, as we could see it was consistent with our vision for ministry.

**These are the next steps the Lord provided for us, and we continue to use our knowledge and skills to support aviation in missions, and bring the love of Christ to the ends of the earth.**

*Derik & Zoë*

**pray.**

Swift reaching of our partnership goal with Proclaim within the two months before serving at Moody

Further healing for Derik's back

Further involvement with community following isolation from the pandemic

**CONNECT**



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