

JAKE KORVER

Aviation. How we sustain ministry at the ends of the earth.

These words mark the beginning of something very significant to me as I write my first newsletter, and I am truly honored to have you reading along. For those of you I have the privilege of interacting with on a fairly regular occasion, most of this won't come as a surprise to you. For many others, though, I would love to fill you in on how God has been carrying out His sovereign plan in my life.



FIRST. **The first incredible thing:** my high school best friend/crush, who “friend-zoned” me all throughout high school and college, is now going to be my wife. Absolutely crazy. It is unquestionably my greatest honor on this side of heaven to marry Brittany VanWyk this coming May. The timing in which the Lord brought us together, how He sanctified us and prepared us for each other, serves as a testament to His grace and perfect plan—and is a story worth a whole lot more space than I should take up here. **For those of you who haven't met Brittany, we have to change that. She is the sweetheart of all sweethearts, whose heart burns red-hot for the preaching of the Gospel to the unreached.**

PAST. **Telling you about the other incredible things God is doing begins five years ago:** As some of you know, I started flight training at the airport in Worthington, Minnesota while I was a junior in high school. Because I also worked there part-time, I spent much of my time there for the remainder of high school. As a result, I got to know the staff and leadership of the small mission aviation ministry headquartered there. And as my love for flying and for the Lord grew simultaneously, I found myself increasingly researching and thinking about serving as a missionary pilot overseas. I then headed off to college seeking a degree in theology with international missionary work in mind.

THEN. **During my time in college I worked as a flight instructor,** and this past May I graduated with my B.S. in Theology from Colorado Christian University, along with a series of pilot certifications obtained. I was then in hot pursuit of a corporate flying job in the Minneapolis area, hoping to spend time near Brittany, growing our relationship, with the intent of pursuing foreign missions together after a few years. Initially there were several job opportunities and some offers. Then, somehow, every single door closed on me. It made for a very frustrating and confusing summer. But God was molding my heart to joyfully embark on *His* plan, not mine.

Then it all came together. Brittany and I had a defining conversation, seriously asking ourselves why we would want to wait an arbitrary amount of years before beginning the journey toward overseas missions. A week later, I was having a conversation with the director of Proclaim Aviation Ministries—that small mission aviation ministry at the Worthington airport—about beginning the lengthy process to reach the mission field. It was a big “Eureka!” moment that made sense of so many aspects of my journey: my flight training, my education, the closed doors, the timing of my relationship with my future wife, and our passion for missions. I have now joined Proclaim's ministry to being our steps to missionary service. It has made me weep to see the Lord's care and commitment to me, and the ever-solidifying realization that God has a specific use for us overseas.



Proclaim Aviation Ministries is a non-profit ministry begun 20 years ago by my former flight instructor and boss, Cameron Johnson, and his friend John Armstrong. They noticed there was quite a large gap between people wanting to serve as missionary pilots/mechanics, and those who actually made it to the mission field. The amount of training, school debt, required experience and flight time, and the necessary funding were serious hindrances. Proclaim bridges that gap and helps people like Brittany and myself meet all these requirements before being handed off to a sending agency.

CURRENTLY. Through Proclaim, I am serving as an apprentice in the aircraft maintenance shop at the Worthington airport. Most missionary aviation organizations require pilots to also have an aircraft A&P mechanic's license. One way to obtain this license is through a 30-month, full-time apprenticeship under a fully qualified and experienced mechanic. In my case, this mechanic is Joel Bolthouse, who along with his wife Sue, served in mission aviation overseas for 30 years. In August, I began working full-time under Joel's direction and supervision, getting hands-on experience fixing and inspecting various general aviation aircraft.

In the meantime, Brittany is currently employed as a social worker in the Twin Cities and will be moving back before our wedding in the spring, looking for work in the area. Lord willing, I will complete my mechanic's certification in the next 2 years, and we will be handed off by Proclaim to whichever missionary sending agency God has determined for us. It is with that mission organization that we would receive a couple more years of cross-cultural and language training, along with advanced flight training to prepare me for operating utility aircraft in demanding environments. Once these indispensable steps are taken, we would head overseas long-term.

It is nothing short of incredible to see how the Lord has been guiding us down this path. Over the past several years, the Spirit has developed in both of us a passion for Himself, the triune God, causing us to desire obedience to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19. There are billions of people who have zero access to the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of these people live in areas that literally do not have roads, and small aircraft save inconceivable amounts of time and lives, getting missionaries and essential supplies in and out.

There is so much more to share, but hopefully this serves as a sufficient introduction to the ministry Brittany and I are pursuing. We are prayerfully seeking out individuals, families, and churches who will faithfully and joyfully partner with us in prayer, relationship, and recurring financial support. Thank you so much for your time and interest.

Questions? I would love to meet up or chat to answer any questions and build/strengthen an encouraging relationship with you.

In Christ,

SUPPORT

PROCLAIM AVIATION MINISTRIES
PO Box 356
Worthington, MN 56187
connect@proclaimaviation.org



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proclaimaviation.org

CONNECTING



JAKE KORVER
jakekorver@gmail.com
(712) 348-1583