

God's Faithfulness IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Update DJ/Moody Aviation

Challenging. Difficult. Even those words don't describe 2018 well enough. It has been a year of deep struggle and significant growth, simultaneously toughening and softening our souls.

First, our church here in Spokane said goodbye to three amazing women of faith. They were each good friends and faithful believers. They supported us through their kind words, tender hugs, constant prayers, and generous gifts. They were our "Spokane Grandmas" and loved us and our daughter so well. We miss them so much and are thankful for the legacy and memory they leave with us.

In addition, Elizabeth faced some challenging health problems. Thankfully, she was able to see the right physical therapists at the right time to get rid of the constant pain she faced. The experience brought us humility and higher levels of trust in God's control.

Right in the middle of it all, Moody Aviation experienced a devastating loss. An instructor and two students crashed and died during a routine training flight. The cause is still not known and may never be known. It was a shock, and the effects of it are still being felt by family, friends, co-workers, and students as we continue to process and mourn their deaths. They were all great men whose lives and testimonies point to a God whose sovereign will chose to take them home to heaven on July 13, 2018.

Through these challenges, we grew in our trust in God's sovereignty and felt the relief of letting go of things we cannot control. We experienced the love and support from friends and family – how thankful we are for you, the community God has blessed us with!



DJ & Elizabeth
MERRIAM
AVIATION MISSIONARIES

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And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:10-11

January 2019



Instructors and students ready for a day of flying.

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for us as we work towards financial freedom.
- Please pray that the refugee students stay healthy during their first winter here in the U.S.
- Please pray for safety as the pilots navigate winter weather.
- We are so thankful for Gwyn and the joy she brings. We love our new life as parents.
- We moved to a safe, peaceful house.
- God financially provided for us in this season.
- We are almost debt-free!



We've moved!

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Training the Next Generation of Missionary Aviators.

she insists on sharing her story and her hope in Jesus

Update from Elizabeth



Bimwavita (back row, center) and her family, not including her father and older brother. Our church family here in Spokane blessed them with their first set of winter boots and wool socks.

“ I want to finish my English class and go to college so I can become a judge. Even though I experienced many trials in my life, I know that God is great and has a plan for me.

Bimwavita stands in front of my class, her eyes bright and her voice clear. Her Congolese accent carries the English language like a song as she shares her paragraph entitled, "My Goals for the Future."

Only a few years ago, the 23-year-old Bimwavita, her parents, and her eight siblings lived a life similar to ours. Bimwavita studied in university. Her older brother worked as doctor, her father as a headmaster, while her mother stayed home and cared for the growing children. Then, suddenly, war and violence spread, killing people they loved, destroying their hometown. Life became about basic survival. They escaped to a refugee camp, where the local government would not allow them to earn money. They saw their time in the camp as a ministry, leading a school for the refugee children. For two years they waded through the complicated resettlement process.

The family arrived in the U.S. in July. Bimwavita's father is very ill. Her brother must begin the multi-year process to approve his medical degree for work in the U.S. Despite his background, one of the few jobs open to him is as a cashier at a local thrift store. He works above and beyond, despite, as he tells me, "the incredibly slow pace of the job." Bimwavita and her mother provide for the family by housekeeping at a local hotel. After eight hours of work, the young Bimwavita arrives to my evening class, ready for four hours of language study, while her mother goes upstairs to a different classroom.

I see the pain on Bimwavita's face as she sits down in class, the recent surgeries on her foot and lower back are still healing. Even so, when I ask the class to write a correctly structured 5 sentence paragraph, she commits to the task with gusto. When the students practice their public speaking at the front of the room, I offer for her to stay where she is, but she insists on walking all the way to the front. She insists on standing tall. She insists on sharing her story and her hope in Jesus. That light beams from within her, a faith I only dare to know. In front of many nations she comes as heaven's ambassador.



The view is great from up here!



DJ's student completes his first solo flight and proudly holds his newly cut t-shirt.

We are praying for more faithful, monthly financial partners who are passionate about this ministry: passionate about training missionaries to serve God through aviation and passionate about serving refugees in our local community. *Will you join us?*

-DJ. Elizabeth & Gwyn

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SUPPORT

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Support

\$2500
\$5000/ month goal