



May 2020

Let's play the alphabet game to catch up with all of you, our family and friends.

A – Alleluia – Praise the Lord!! Easter – He is Risen! Alive!

B – Because you haven't heard from us for a long, long, time, this is a random way to catch up.

C – Came back from Zambia Feb 29th, 2020. Caleb's plan is to go to China in August to teach English (to kindergarteners) and play rugby. Corn is planted in Minnesota!

D – Departed for Zambia Jan 25th – for 5 weeks. Took Jake (apprentice) along to work in the FMZ hangar! Did enjoy helping maintain planes. Did a couple flights to help out!

E – Ethan moved to Raleigh, NC to play on the Raleigh Flyers pro-frisbee team.

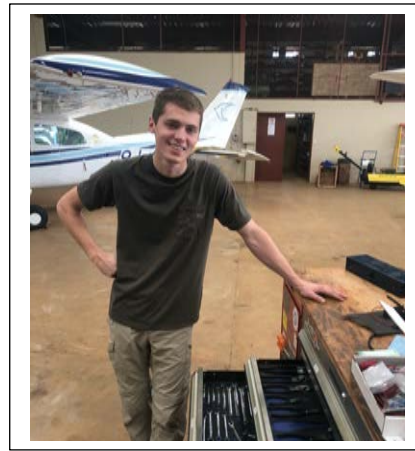
F – Faith vs fear....in regard to the COVID-19. Friends communicate via phone. Fruit – mangoes, bananas, apples all taste good!

G – Grateful for the continued prayer and financial support!! God is in control. God is doing something worldwide BIG. A book we are reading "In His Image" has an encouraging quote: "God is able to absorb evil and turn it to the Good." Grateful for this truth.

H – Helpful – that's what we want to be when we visit FMZ. While Sue is helpful with baking cookies and conversations, Joel is helpful in many practical ways – tools, planes, tractors, customers, flights, pre-flight for medical flights, humor relief, etc.

I – Investing in others.... Joel has 3 apprentice guys, Tom, Tim and Jake.

J – Jake (apprentice) went with us to Zambia for 3 weeks of aircraft maintenance and mission exposure. He and Brittany were just married in April. He has his pilot's license (instructor) and is working on maintenance credentials with the goal of overseas mission work in a couple years.



K – Kindness is a good idea. Keys are very necessary in Zambia. Know what God's word says.... Sue is doing a one year chronological read of the Bible.

L – Laughter is Good medicine – Social distancing joke: “Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He’s a web designer” Groan! Laughter!!!

M – Music is encouraging to our days ... (so is Chocolate) and phone chats, podcasts, visits, Meat – we bought a pig (for the pork) and participated in a 10-pig butchering marathon! Come on over for pork roast! Evenings – watching MASH – started last fall and are now up to season 6.

N – New experiences, church at home, family Zoom birthday parties, wearing masks while shopping, hug-less visits.

O – Opportunities to help and encourage.... Proclaim people spent a day ‘social distancing’ at a camp doing pre-summer cleaning and projects. Sue sewing masks, making extra phone calls and texting to stay in contact. Overdue – is our communication with you - our family and friends!!

P – Packing for Zambia trips – the interesting things we put in suitcases: plane parts, vanilla essence, M&M's, tools, motorcycle brakes, Toblerone, computer equipment, fixed phones, Toblerone, some clothes, and Toblerone Etc. (Ask Matthias – sometimes Toblerone helps a day go better!!)



Q – Quality time with friends – specifically in Zambia in February! When we left FMZ in March 2018 we didn't have any idea that the Lord would allow us to go back and help four times in less than two years!!

R – Remember – Remembering God’s faithfulness! 1 Thess. 5:24 “The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it!” We left for Botswana in 1990 and have experienced God’s faithfulness, (His protection and provision.) Many of you have faithfully prayed and supported us financially for the past 30 years!! Rachel – lives with us! Previously she was one of our missionary kids the year we were at John Brown University. She helped us pack up in Zambia. She came to stay with us Jan 2019 and is working in the school district in Worthington! We all enjoy each other!

S – “Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.” Psalm 143:8b. Skeet shooting - Joel’s new hobby!



T – Tools! When does a man stop buying tools?? “When he is dead!” Hurray – Joel’s NOT dead!! Tom’s (apprentice) been with Joel since July 2018! Recently married Nancy. Tentatively planning a summer internship in Alaska with MARC, travel permitting. Tim (apprentice) and Jessica hoping to be involved with flight/scripture translation in Papua New Guinea as Jessica is presently involved in translation work with Wycliff. The book of Luke. She lived in Papua New Guinea for several years working with Wycliff before marrying Tim.

U – Understanding that these days are unsettling. There are some similarities to mission/military life. Miss attending family events. If you see what you need/want at the store, buy it then as it may not be in the store the next week. Unsure of the right thing to do in situations: What time to shop? Where to wear a mask? Who to talk to? Bring your own reusable bags? What to touch? What to wash when you’ve been shopping? How to greet someone? – bump elbows, fist bump? It’s my Mom – Can I hug her?? Lots of questions and lack of specific answers.

V – Very thankful that God is sovereign and in control! The Vatican – Did you know we went there on our travels from Zambia to USA in 2018? We did!

W – Weddings of the 3 apprentices: Tim and Jessica, May 2019! Tom and Nancy, January 2020! Jake and Brittany, April 2020! Willingness to obey the Lord, to serve and encourage others in whatever way is needed.

X – X-rays? Nope, thankfully. Xylophone? Don’t own one of those either. We don’t even have an Xbox, so “X” isn’t being very helpful!



Tim, Tom Jake and Joel

Y – Yes, we sure have an amazing family and friends! – We aren't as Young as we used to be. --

Z – Zambia Resident permits – Joel and Sue -- current! (You must live in Zambia for over 10 years to be qualified to apply for a resident permit. This permit then allows you to come and go and work in the country without extra paperwork. To keep this current we are to be physically in the country once a year.). Zambian flight license – Joel – current! Zambian Engineer/Maintenance license – Joel – current! Zambian Driver's licenses – Joel and Sue – current! (3-day process, complete with behind the wheel driving test!). Could have listed the driver's license process under "P" for Patience building process!! 3 days,... application, physical's at a government clinic, driver's test, payment, and waiting for the internet to work so they could process the paperwork and print out the license card!

Hope you feel caught up a little bit on what's happening in our lives. We are tentatively planning to go to Zambia again in August to help Flying Mission with an animal survey which will help with their operating expenses for the next year. They are down to one pilot/mechanic and are expecting the Grattons, who we mentioned in one of our previous letters last year, to join them as soon as travel opening up allows.

Yours in Christ,

Sue & Joel

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