



November, 2020

Greetings Family and Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving USA People! Our last greeting was “Happy Labor Day” and now it’s Thanksgiving already.

It was just after Labor Day weekend when Caleb and I left for Zambia to help out with a flying survey of a couple of the national parks, mentioned in our last letter, and any projects that needed to be done. The airline flights going over to were very empty, in fact I’ve been telling people it’s the first time I’ve ever been asked while checking in, if I wanted a 3 or 4 seat row. Sure made it nice on a 13 hr flight to be able to stretch out and sleep!

When Flying Mission has done surveys in the past for the Zambian department of wildlife, I have usually been kept busy with all the maintenance on the planes that a survey creates as well as doing mission flights that were scheduled. This time I was able to actually do some of the survey flying and it was a lot of fun, though hard work. The flying needed to

be as precise as possible, both in track and altitude. Each plane had a team of two counters (RSO’s - Rear Seat Observers) and one recorder (FSO - Front Seat Observer). Not only were animals counted, but any human incursion into the park, or it’s boundaries, as in logging, mining, poaching or even settlements. We usually flew about 4 hours each morning and in the afternoon the team spent entering the data from the mornings flight, while the two of us pilots got to relax and get ready for the next days flight.



During this time Caleb was back in Lusaka at the FM base helping with a list of various projects that included welding up stands for tools and putting up trusses for a roof over some of the storage containers. It was fun for him to get back to Zambia as an

adult and reconnect with a lot of friends as well as to see how things had changed over the years since he left for college. You know that once you wear out a pair of shoes in Africa, you'll always want to go back, and Caleb has worn out many a pair there!

Before our return flight, we were required to take a COVID test, which we both did. We received the results on the day we were supposed to leave Zambia and mine came back positive, which ended up with us staying for an extra two weeks. I was required to have two negative tests before I could leave, so I took another test the same day we got the results back and it came back negative, so the positive result was really a false positive. Anyway, it ended up being two weeks before we could get a flight out and we kept busy with a radio installation in one of the planes and other projects during that time. We were also able to join the Flying Mission team on their three day retreat which was a treat!

We are very thankful to a faithful God who takes care of us in ways that are amazing! What a privilege it is to be called His child!

Thankfully His Child,
Joel and Sue



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