go therefore

MATT 28:18-20

JULY 2021

ZACH & KAYLA MERKLING

THEODORE JAXX /

On March 23rd at 9:27PM right in our living room, we welcomed Theodore Jaxx to our family, weighing 9lbs 1oz and 22in long. Kayla endured 22 hours of intense labor as well as 3 hours of pushing. Theo arrived healthy and happy, and has continued to be a bundle of joy ever since!

Chapter 7 / new birth

The last 4 months for us, though, have been rough. Postpartum recovery really took a toll as Kayla endured surgery shortly after the birth, as well as a number of infections spread out over 2 months. Needless to say, we were very drained by all this, and both of our moms were staying the night with us very often to give us a little respite. Things have been slowly improving as time has gone by, and right now we are functioning at about 95% of what we were before Theo was born. Thank you so much for all the prayers being sent our way for us and our baby boy!

PRAYING

- For guidance as we dialogue with 2 different missions.
- A reliable minivan to purchase for traveling around the US, to visit partners and raise support this coming year.
- For God's continued provision as we look to raise more monthly support in the coming year.
- For wisdom in nurturing our family with a big transition on the horizon.

MINISTRY UPDATE /

THIS LAST SEMESTER, Zach has been working with 4 different students completing their training in bigger airplanes. Each student spent 15-20 hours flying three different airplanes. These airplanes have either more power than the students are used to or a different kind of landing gear than usual. This is the semester where students' skills are grown and stretched so that they can think through different situations and airplanes more critically. After they completed this training, Zach's students will be preparing for long trip this Fall where they will put their skills to use navigating airspace around Los Angeles as well as flying into remote airstrips in Idaho, Utah, and Montana.

MAF ADVENTURE CAMP In July, Zach also had the opportunity to spend a week in Cascade, ID instructing at a flight camp put on by Mission Aviation Fellowship. Here, 12 students had the opportunity to learn about missionary aviation and see if it is a direction they want to pursue. After a week of flying, team building, and conversation, many of the students felt confident that God is calling them towards the mission field in an aviation capacity. Though they only received 2.5 hours each of flight training, each student went above and beyond by demonstrating incredible knowledge and ability in flying the airplane.

Our Family Representing Moody Aviation

WHERE ARE WE GOING? /

This is the question of the month! With this being the last semester we will be serving at Moody, we are taking steps towards the overseas mission field. We are currently in conversation with 2 different missions in 2 different countries. Right now, God is giving us the next steps we are to take in the process of going overseas, but He hasn't completely revealed where our country of service will be. If you would like to see regular updates on what is going on, find our new ministry group on Facebook - **Merklings on a Mission**. This is a private group, so you will need to request to be added to the group, but here we post regular photos and updates on what is going on. **Grace and peace to you,**

Zach & Kayla and Theodore

One of Zach's students mastering the Cessna 182 with its retractable landing gear

Zach's 4 students at MAF Adventure Camp in Cascade, Idaho

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