

January 2022 – Happy New Year!

Greetings Family and Friends,

You're probably wondering if we're still in Zambia, as the last time you received an official update from us was in August and we were in Zambia. Well, here's what's happened since then...

It was an interesting year as I, Sue, stayed with Joel's Mom, Irene, in Grand Rapids, MI, from Jan 1 till she passed on July 13. Irene was an amazing lady, and we so appreciate that her senior living home allowed me to stay with her for that time. We had lots of fun and enjoyed games, jeopardy, wheel of fortune and she was faithful to attend her church prayer meeting via zoom every week. Joel was able to come every other weekend or so, from Minnesota.

The Lord allowed us to have a trip to Zambia in the summer - Joel left in June with his mom's blessing and I was able to join him there for 3 weeks after Irene passed. Joel was able to cover for the pilot who had a month's furlough with his family in the States. Flying Mission has had only one pilot for the past year and a half. Thankfully, Joel is able to keep his Zambia pilot and maintenance licenses current so he could slot right in after a check ride and physical. It was so nice to get to join him and be "at home" in our other place we call home. We're also thankful that in August another pilot family came from Switzerland to join the Flying Mission team! And -- they've had another pilot family come in November! So thankful to the Lord for bringing these two new families to Flying Mission.

We arrived back to the US a week later than planned in August, due to Covid travel restrictions, and then spent the rest of the month sorting out Irene's belongings and having her memorial service. We're hoping for a trip to Zambia in 2022 - probably July or August. We would really like one now in January and February to avoid dealing with the cold and snow of Minnesota!

The fall has allowed us to have routine back in our lives. Joel has had 3 apprentice guys. Tom started 2 1/2 years ago. Earlier this past year he passed his maintenance test and is now a licensed mechanic! He and his wife are raising support to go to Alaska this coming year and serve with MARC mission. Jake, who joined 1 1/2 years ago, recently passed his maintenance test, so is also now a licensed mechanic! He and his wife are in conversation with Ethnos 360 (previously New Tribes) and are currently in Arizona for the week doing a technical evaluation with Ethnos. It's exciting to see both couples progress closer to serving directly in missions! Kenny and his family moved up from Florida last November having never lived outside Florida. Their kids were excited to have snow! All three of these guys have flight licenses and are flight instructors so they have been able to build flight time by giving flight lessons to local students.



Jake and Kenny – kind of working

It's been good for me to be back in Minnesota where I can visit my mother more regularly. We enjoyed having Mom and my brother Jim come for Thanksgiving!

We're enjoying our church and this year will be helping with building life groups (small groups, home Bible studies, many different names). We've started a group that meets after church for people who drive farther distances to church. It seems like lots of folks are wanting fellowship as we have over 25 adults with their children (20) who are signed up to come. I made about 10 lbs. of Sloppy Joes and got 4 pkts of hot dogs! We'll have lunch together and then have discussion and application on the morning sermon, keeping it simple to start with. We're looking forward to getting to know more people in the church through this and help others do the same.

We headed to Arkansas for Christmas through New Year's weekend. It's one of our family's happy places and we're glad Caleb continues to live there! Ethan and his girlfriend joined us for the week, and we enjoyed meals, games, movies, old family videos, a couple days in Branson and more games, more old family videos, meals, coffee time and even got to celebrate Caleb's birthday all together!



As always, we appreciate your prayers for us as we navigate this journey God has us on, that in the end we would be found faithful to the things He has called us to. We do pray for you, as the Lord brings you to mind, and please let us know how we can be more specific in our prayers for your journeys.

In Christ,
Sue 'n Joel

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