



Meet the newest class of missionary aviators. The Moody Aviation class of 2025 had 14 flight students and 3 maintenance specialist graduates. Five have already embarked on missionary aviation ministry, while 6 will do so within this next year.

## gratitude.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I had this past spring and early summer to visit so many of you in Wyoming, New York, and Pennsylvania. I only wish I had more time to visit longer and with many more of you. Thank you for your hospitality and for taking time to meet. I am grateful for you and for your partnership in this ministry that equips the next generation to use the skills and tools of aviation to spread the gospel and love of God around the world.

## learning.

Since the beginning of summer, I have experienced many opportunities to talk with people about the incredible love and grace of our Lord and Savior. While part of a chapel small group at Moody Aviation discussing 1 Thessalonians, we worshiped God and praised Him for how He works in our lives. In addition, while leading a class with a small group of men at the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative we discussed the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Most significant to me has been the bedtime talks with Gwyn about who God is and what He is like.

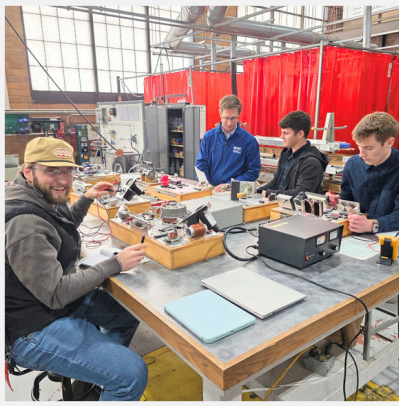
## please pray.

*For the students and for the instructors, specifically that we would be given wisdom in knowing how to meet students where they are at, to support and encourage them through the situations and struggles they come to college with • Pray for more instructors at Moody • Pray for me to connect with people who would be interested in partnering with me*

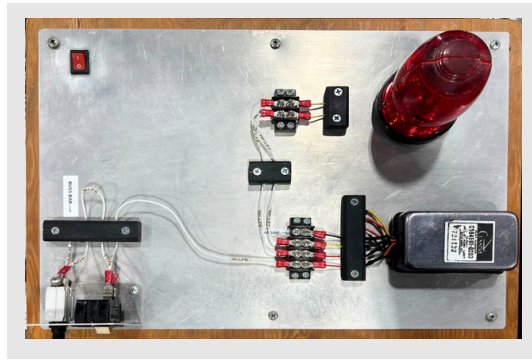
# DJ MERRIAM

Training the Next Generation of Aviation Missionaries





Troubleshooting aircraft electrical systems



Aircraft beacon electrical system components installed on a small box so students can learn to troubleshoot before having to take apart and crawl into an airplane



Gwyn and I getting ready for Christmas. She is growing up so quickly!

# in my element.



One of the courses I get to teach this term is Aircraft Electrical Systems. In that course, students learn more about troubleshooting electrical systems. They practice this skill on small boards that have individual system components installed on them with wiring inside a box that allows us to place faults into the circuits. (Fun fact, I was able to help plan and build these boards back in 2020.) Recently a student came to me and said he broke the board he was practicing on because it wasn't working anymore. Surprised, I said, "No... I doubt that." I walked over to the board with him and he showed me how the beacon light wasn't flashing anymore. I quickly checked some things inside the box. Seeing nothing wrong I told him, "Troubleshoot it."

I had a hunch there was simply a loose connection on the top of the board. Sure enough, a few minutes later this student came to me beaming and said, "I fixed it!" With excitement he told me how the circuit breaker was the culprit and that it hadn't reset completely. He was so proud of himself for finding the problem and I could see that his confidence had grown tremendously with that one simple experience. It was an opportunity for him to learn in a way that I didn't plan or prepare for him. These are the teachable moments I revel in. It's encouraging to see students learn from the processes that I helped create and prepare, but it is truly a blessing to be present for unplanned experiences--to come alongside students as they grow and learn on their own.

In addition to my travels and visits with so many of you, experiences like this encourage and renew my vision and purpose to equip the next generation of aviation missionaries.

With Christmas just around the corner and with that, the new year, I wanted to be sure to say thank you for your prayers and financial support this past year. My hope and prayer for you this Christmas is that you will experience anew God's love, peace, joy, and presence. Merry Christmas!

*DJ Merriam*



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