



# MISSION AVIATION

## NEWS FROM THE HILDEBRANDTS

MARCH 2024



*'Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!  
For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.'* Psalm 107: 8-9

### When things don't go as planned...

Thankfully, our flight lessons usually go as planned and the instructor and student are able to accomplish what we set out to do. Two weeks ago, that seemed more challenging than usual as several aircraft got stranded in other locations and I became the rescue pilot.

It began with us sending one of our students out on a long training flight to Regina. The weather was good going out, but overnight conditions deteriorated quickly and she was no longer able to return by herself. After being stranded for four days, the decision was made for another instructor and I to drive the seven hours so that we could bring her and the airplane back. Although conditions were still not ideal, we decided the trip could be carried out safely.

I departed on what was to be a 2h40m flight back to Three Hills. Unfortunately, when I was less than an hour from home, conditions deteriorated again, and I was forced to land at a remote airfield and catch a ride back to Three Hills by road.

After several more days there, the plane was finally able to be picked up and returned to service where a number of students were anxiously waiting to continue their training in it!

Only a day later, another of our aircraft was on their way back from the US when an electrical issue forced them to stop near Calgary. Thankfully these sorts of issues are rare but are things we train our students to be prepared for. They made a safe landing at the busy airport, but that meant that the plane was now stranded there. Several days later, I was able to make the trip out by road with an engineer who repaired the plane so that I could fly it back home.

Although these unexpected challenges disrupt the training schedule and frustrate those involved, they are great opportunities to teach students how to respond when things don't go as planned. It also a good reminder that God does allow trials in our lives, not simply to develop practical skills but, much more to strengthen our faith and increase our dependence on Him!





## Hangar expansion update

In our last newsletter we informed you of our desire to expand the existing hangar and training facility. Due to the worldwide shortage of qualified missionary pilots and engineers, there are programs in some countries that have airplanes but no staff to operate them.

As a result, MAF has committed to expanding the scope of our training at PATC. The goal is to double the student intake at Prairie Aviation to better meet the needs we are facing globally.

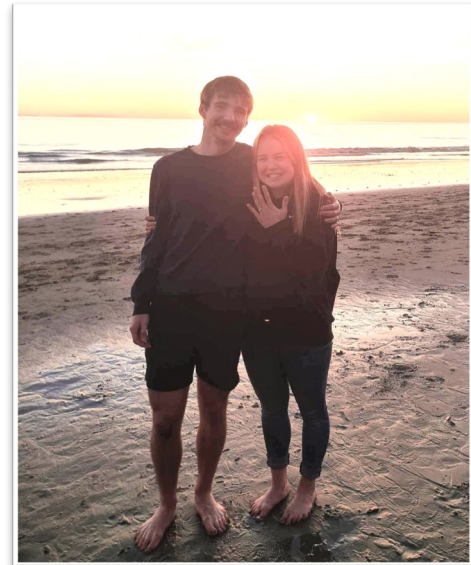
It has been exciting to see the Lord open doors, connect us with the right people for the project, and also begin to provide some of the funding required. If the resources continue to come in, we expect to begin construction late this summer with the hope of getting foundations into the ground before next winter. Lord willing, our goal is to have the building complete and ready for the 2025 fall intake of students! Please pray with us as we prepare and await the Lord's timing for each stage of this construction.

As I think back to the '90s and my training years at Prairie, Dorilee and I enjoyed volunteering with the construction of the existing building. The facility has been used to train and send out many missionaries for service for nearly 30 years now.

We praise God for all those who have come through the doors and are excited to see how the Lord will use this new expansion to multiply the spread of the Gospel around the world for decades to come!

## Family Update

It is our privilege to announce **the engagement of our Mariah to Colton Low!** They met while on the track and field team at the Master's University where they have been students for the last four years.



The wedding is planned for this June in Washington, but they expect to remain in California for several more years. Mariah continues to work for the admissions department of the university while Colton works part-time at an accounting firm and is also completing his Master's in Biblical Studies. We praise God for His provision in bringing these two together!

**Thank you once again friends for your prayers and support that allow the ministry of MAF to carry on!**

In Christ,

*Calvin & Dorilee*

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