



## Orientation Graduation!

When we last updated you, we shared about how Nathan's PFO (Prefield Orientation) was going. We are excited to share that on June 27<sup>th</sup>, Nathan completed his prefield training requirements at JAARS and was able to graduate! It was exciting for him to reach this milestone. He is now a certified JAARS pilot!



JAARS' and Lutheran Bible Translators' leadership worked together to get us to this important milestone

Paul Federwitz, LBT's Chief Programs Officer, was able to be present at the graduation ceremony. It has been exciting to see LBT and JAARS work together in invigorating partnership supporting Bible translation. We are truly grateful for the collaboration and effort that both organizations have put into training and equipping us here in the United States, and who are now looking to deploy and sustain us when we finally reach Papua New Guinea.

## Training Continues...

Although Nathan has received his JAARS certificate, his prefield training is not quite complete. With our placement to serve in Papua New Guinea, Nathan has to get field-specific training. He will be getting both flight and maintenance experience with the Kodiak, the airplane that he will fly overseas, during the coming months. He will have the opportunity to train with his dad and a couple of other pilots who fly/flew the Kodiak in PNG. This will be a great opportunity for him to learn from their experience. He is looking forward to flying the plane he grew up riding in PNG.

In addition to the Kodiak training, Nathan will also need a high-altitude chamber test. This will help him see how his body reacts to high altitudes. He will know what his body's warning signs for dangers that a lack of oxygen and atmospheric density can cause. This will prepare him for flying at high altitudes around the mountains of Papua New Guinea.



*This is the plane Nathan will be training in, the Kodiak 100*

## Traveling Again

This fall our family will again be traveling across the US to share about our ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators. **We are currently 79% funded and need to reach our funding goal before leaving for PNG.** We are hoping to share about aviation and Bible translation with churches, ministry groups, Bible study or Sunday school classes, and individuals who might be interested in partnering with us through prayer or financial partnerships. We are hoping to visit churches in North and South Carolina, eastern Tennessee, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri. We still have many midweek opportunities available and we would love to connect with you or share our ministry with your church or Bible study. Please reach out to us if you are interested!



*Nathan with his dad in 2015 in front of the Kodiak*

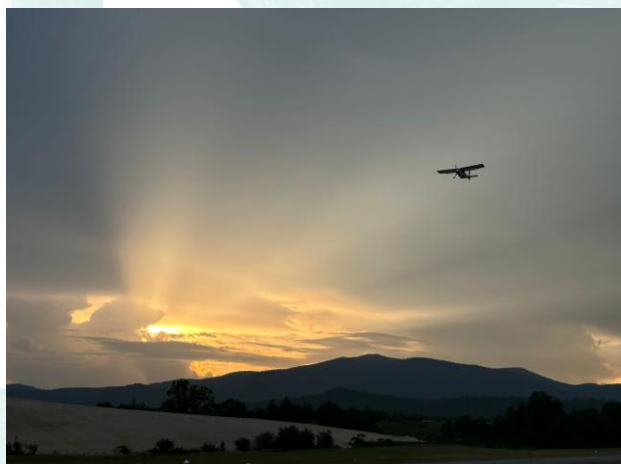


# Mountain Week

During the final two weeks of PFO, Nathan and the other orientees spent 10 days in the mountains of Western North Carolina to take part in “Mountain Week.” These ten days allow the pilots to practice the challenging techniques of flying around mountains and taking off and landing on higher-grade sloped runways. Here is Nathan’s perspective of this experience:

The slope of Strawberry Ridge can be daunting. Before going up to the mountains, the steepest slope we had landed on was 7%. Now we are faced with a runway that slopes up to 17%! But because of my training, I knew that I could safely land there. I first flew with my instructor for several different landings in different wind conditions. Soon it came time to go solo... but I had the tools I needed. Now as I lined up to face the 17% slope, I had confidence because of the excellent training I had received in the past 3 months.

On the last day of Mountain Week, the guys were able to practice “drop flights.” Some missionaries live in locations where building an airstrip is not possible. So pilots drop mail, medicine, and other supplies in a designated “drop zone.” This was a fun exercise to complete, and the sunset created a beautiful backdrop as Nathan flew the Helio to the drop zone.



*One of Nathan’s drop flights*



*View from the top of Strawberry Ridge*



*Nathan flying during Mountain Week*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for the completion of PFO, for safety and valuable experience gained by all the orientees!
- Pray for Nathan as he continues to train and prepare to serve as a pilot in Papua New Guinea.
- Praise that Sarah and the boys made it through the 10 days of mountain week without Nathan and pray also for grace and energy during Nathan’s training coming up this fall.
- Pray for safe travels, good communication, and strong partnerships to be formed in the upcoming months so we can reach our funding goals to be able to depart for PNG.

## CONTACT US

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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