



Lutheran Bible Translators

# A Little Federwitz Family

Aviation Training Experiences

Nathan and Sarah Federwitz

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## Pre-Field Orientation Fun

Now that we have been back “home” in North Carolina for a few weeks, we have been able to resettle into our life at JAARS. For Nathan this means working in the JAARS Aviation Department. We have had some fun aviation-related opportunities recently that we want to share with you.

During the spring, JAARS conducts a “Pre-Field Orientation” (PFO) for pilots and mechanics. The orientees receive instruction from the experienced missionaries who work in the JAARS training department. Even though Nathan is not participating in PFO this year, he is helping where he can. The goal of PFO is to prepare the orientees to be able to operate in challenging environments on the mission field. The culmination of this training is a ten-day-long Mountain Week. Prior to that event JAARS puts on a “production cross country”, which is a simulation of a regular day of being a missionary pilot. The pilots transport passengers and their cargo to various runways and locations, dropping off the passengers they were carrying and picking up more. We were able to assist with this day as passengers.



*Getting dropped off with our cargo at a “remote” location during Production Cross-Country Day.*

To simulate a challenge these pilots might face, we showed up with Enoch without warning the pilot that we were bringing our son. In many countries, a baby is considered part of the mother, and it would be assumed that where Sarah went, Enoch went as well. This was tricky for the pilot as JAARS does not allow trainees to fly with minors, so he had to break the

news to us and we “had to figure out something to do with him.” Obviously, this was all for simulation for the pilot, so we had already scheduled a babysitter.



*JAARS 2024 Mountain Week Staff and Orientees*

The week after the cross country event was the beginning of Mountain Week. Nathan was asked to attend this trip to serve as part of the “ground crew.” He helped to prepare, check, and maintain the airplanes and runways. Precise flying is important on these more difficult mountain runways, so as ground crew, he would communicate with the pilots as they were flying, letting them know their take-off and landing performance numbers.

The goal is for Nathan to fly in orientation next year to get these experiences in the pilot’s seat. However, it has been a great experience for him to see things from a different perspective than orientees usually see. It will be helpful for him to have the perspective of a passenger as they are flown with their cargo. Nathan will also benefit from working on ground crew because he learned what the runways and terrain are like, and how it is beneficial to have good communication with those on the ground. All of these experiences will help him be a better pilot.



*Nathan during Mountain Week helping to service the aircraft at a grass strip with some of the orientees.*



## Nathan's Solo Flight

Despite the fact that most of the instructors at JAARS are busy this time of year, they were able to carve out a little time for Nathan to continue his flight training. He has been working towards flying his first solo flight in a Cessna 206. This milestone was not like his first solo at SMAT with only 12 hours of training. This solo privilege is granted to a JAARS trainee when they can demonstrate the capability of landing on a 1200 ft, 2% sloped grass runway here at JAARS. On June 15<sup>th</sup> he soloed in the C206 for the very first time on that short grass runway! Enoch and Sarah were able to watch him fly, although Enoch could not quite stay awake until the end of Nathan's flight.



Sarah and Enoch came to congratulate Nathan after his solo.

Aside from flying, Nathan has been busy assisting with various other happenings at JAARS lately. We mentioned in our last letter that Nathan would be helping with MATA (Mission at the Airport) events throughout the summer. At these events, JAARS brings airplanes and helicopters to a small airport and offers rides. They also share about the work of mission aviation and JAARS. Nathan has helped with one event so far, but will continue to work at these events through September. His role was to help get passengers on and off of the helicopter all day. MATAs are great opportunities to share the work of missionary aviation with people who may never have heard of it before.



Nathan and the crew he worked with at the MATA.

## Upcoming Trips and Events

During July our family will be busy traveling once again. First, we will be attending an event in Missouri with all Lutheran Bible Translators' missionaries and staff for their 60th anniversary. Afterwards, we will vacation with some of Sarah's family. Starting July 20<sup>th</sup>, Nathan along with a number of JAARS staff including his family, will be working at the JAARS booth for the Oshkosh Airshow. Later in the summer, Sarah will begin her first linguistics class! Nathan will be training to fly with passengers unassisted.

We are already planning our next speaking trip in October and November. Please reach out to us if you would be interested in inviting our family to visit or give a presentation on our work with Lutheran Bible Translators and JAARS. We have a number of Sundays available as well as midweek opportunities.

*Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*  
Hebrews 12:1-2

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for a successful Pre-field Orientation class and pray that their transition to the mission field is smooth.
- Praise that Nathan was able to complete his first solo flight at JAARS.
- Pray for our family as we travel throughout the month of July.
- Pray for fruitful conversations and refreshing time with our LBT coworkers as we will be seeing many of them in July.

## CONTACT US

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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