



James and Danielle Gullett serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship: October Update 24

Greetings!

It is a pleasure to write to you and update you as we work with Mission Aviation Fellowship. We hope this letter finds you well, and you are encouraged as you see what the Lord has been doing in our lives these past months.



Reflecting on September and October

In September, James returned to MATC in the Netherlands so he could do a couple of flights to keep his licence current, and to take part in some short airstrip training. This was a really helpful period and in the link below you can see a video we created to highlight some of the flying that took place. Whilst this happened, Danielle remained in the USA, where she finished packing and completed various tasks before flying out to the UK. Before departing to Australia, we had a commissioning service with the MAF UK team in Kent, and then a sending service from James' home church, Trinity Church Oxford. It was a very special way to say goodbye, and we are so thankful for the support from friends and family in the USA and UK.

Short Field Flight Training

The beginning of October came very quickly, and we left the UK and arrived a day or so later on the opposite side of the world in Cairns, Australia. We actually are based about an hour away from Cairns, in a small town called Mareeba. MAF has a training/maintenance base out here, and this is where we will be for the next few months. James started flying within a few days of arriving, on the GA[^] Airvan, one of the aircraft types used in the Arnhem Land programme. He has really enjoyed getting to grips with the new plane, and is looking forward to flying it operationally. We are also very thankful that he passed his Australian commercial pilot theory exams this last week, which is a big step in obtaining his Australian licence.

What do the next months hold for us?

Around the end of October, James should be able to obtain his Australian licence through a checkride; between now and then he will be preparing for that, doing various flights in the Airvan, getting used to Australian airspace. Once that is complete, we will travel to Arnhem Land for a quick visit, this will give us a better idea of what life will be like for us there when we move in January. Following that trip, we will return to Mareeba where James will do something called 'standardisation', MAF specific training that all pilots do before going onto the field. This will be about a month, leading us into early December. We will be in Cairns for the Christmas holidays and then in early to mid January we will travel to Arnhem Land. Throughout this period in Mareeba, Danielle will be doing some online study, obtaining some additional certificates to add to her Doula certification. She also will be spending time with some of the other MAF ladies and their families, supporting them in different ways.

Top: GA8 Airvan; Bottom Left: Exploring around Mareeba; Bottom Right: First day on the Airvan

How can you pray for us?

Praise God for a good adjustment to life in Mareeba, that James has enjoyed the flying, and has passed his required theory exams.

Praise God for the community that has welcomed us here.

Pray for Danielle, that she will enjoy this time in Mareeba, and that work will fall into place for her in Arnhem Land.

Pray for James' licence conversion, that he will pass the checkride in a few weeks, and that he will learn much from standardisation.

Pray for our short visit to Arnhem Land in November, that this will be very helpful and encouraging. Please do continue to pray for our transition there at the beginning of next year.

As always, pray for the people of Arnhem Land, and our hearts as we prepare to connect with them.



Left: Mass and balance calculations under the wing;

Right: Performing an airstrip evaluation followed by a landing at a short grass/gravel airstrip