

I AM A COMMERCIAL PILOT! NOW TO FINALISE BECOMING AN MAF PILOT!

Update - The last few months, and looking forward to what the upcoming period will bring.



This update comes a little later than I planned, so apologies for that! The last 3 months have been full to the brim with a variety of goals.

In my last update, I shared the different licenses that I obtain during this Future Pilot Programme. Well each and every one of those licenses and ratings have been completed. So I am pleased to share that I am a fully fledged Commercial Pilot, with an Instrument Rating! This has felt like a massive weight off of my shoulders to be completely honest - and I am excited for the final steps to solidifying my position as an MAF pilot, which I will go into a bit more depth a little further down in this update.

The commercial license was an intense 3-4 week course - learning to fly a new aircraft, a Piper Turbo Arrow IV (pictured above). With a cruise speed of 135 knots, significantly faster than anything I had flown before, the Piper presented a new challenge. Known as a complex aircraft, it has a retractable gear and a constant speed propeller, which requires manual adjustment from inside the cockpit to keep maximum efficiency. All of these elements combined creates a much higher workload in the cockpit, whilst trying to learn and maintain the new professional requirements to being a commercial pilot - for example, increased awareness on fuel, passenger satisfaction and safety, among many other things. During this training, I was privileged to be able to take my mother for her first flight with me - this was a huge highlight and very special memory. The check-ride for the CPL went smoothly thankfully, and I was very relieved to hear "Congratulations" from the examiner before we had left the runway after landing!



Support Raising

Following this, I quickly returned back to the UK (before I was forced to by the conditions of my visa), and focus shifted on to raising support and getting it to a level where I will be ready for a programme next year. In this time God has been so great - he has opened doors and peoples' hearts immensely, from talks in churches and churches wanting to partner as well as many individuals; the timing on these was no coincidence. Not only that but I have also been hugely blessed with people who have helped to push those doors open too. This has helped create new avenues of support, whether financial and/or prayerful, I am very appreciative - so thank you! For example, a wonderful group of young people volunteered to do a sponsored walk to raise money and awareness for my journey - this was such a heartwarming gesture!

Finally Flying in the UK

At the start of August, I was so privileged to be able to bring an aircraft over from The Netherlands for 2 weeks to put my Instrument Rating to practice. This was an incredible experience from day 1 - flying my first water crossing over the English Channel and crossing over the cliffs of Dover and over my hometown, Folkestone.

Not only this but I got to fly a lot of the people dearest to me - which was a massive honour and placement of trust on their behalf! The two most common things I heard were:

1. "I can't believe how stable these little boxes with wings and a lawnmower engine are!"
2. "Folkestone from the air is just so so different to what you would think"

Both of these statements, I have made myself, the first was maybe a few years ago now though!

The flying in the UK also served a massive purpose. I am currently practicing flying in Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) to ready myself for one of two evaluations I have in three weeks' time. These evaluations are the final hurdle to get past to serve as an MAF pilot and if successful, will provide the Pilot Placement Committee (PPC) with information on where I am best placed to serve what MAF need. On top of this, there will be another psychological evaluation and an interview with the committee who will then go away to come up with some options. I expect to know where I am going in November or December!

All Nations Bible College

After these evaluation flights, I will be returning to the UK and heading straight to All Nations Bible College for a 10.5 week, residential "Enroute" Course. I am so excited for this time to build knowledge and understanding of the Bible but also the cultural differences involved in Faith when moving abroad to the countries we operate in. This course has come with great recommendation, being the usual route for MAF overseas staff, and I can't wait to get started. This will last from 24th September to 6th December and it is located near to Bishop's Stortford.

Prayer & Praise

- Thankful for the completion of the CPL.
- Prayer for gaining good understanding and skills required for Instrument Rating.
- Prayer the upcoming MAF Evaluation flights.
- Prayer for the upcoming period at All Nations Bible College.
- Praise for my wonderful support network which has grown over the last months and prayer this will continue to grow!
- Prayer for the upcoming interview and discussion with the PPC regarding where my placement with MAF will be.

WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

If you are interested in more regular updates, I will be setting up a WhatsApp community to share photos and quick updates of what I am doing. Please reply to this email with your phone number and confirmation of wanting to join - and I will add you to the community. This will be one-way communication but if you have any questions or replies then you can always email!



⁶Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 TIMOTHY:6-7