



The next generation! Aryanna & Astrid helping me replace a car part



Hike up Kinnoull Hill overlooking Perth



Girls have joined local girlguides groups

Happy New Year!

Dear Friends, I hope this letter finds you well and warm this winter.

We had a lovely Christmas break before beginning the new year. The course is going well (breakdown on page 2!) and my classmates and I realised we only have just over a year left here at Air Service training - how time flies.

I've just begun some of our practical training in the workshops in December, the course having been almost entirely theory so far. I finished a few weeks of cabling, crimping and soldering before the Christmas break and had a test on this as soon as I came back. After that, I have "Hacking and Bashing" or hand skills which I'm very much enjoying.

The girls have been very busy between church, home education, their martial arts, and girl-guiding. One of our biggest worries was about the girls making friends here, but the Lord has been so good to us. Aryanna had her 10th birthday party here and even after only being here 8 months she had the flat full of her friends for her party.

Sometimes the days in the classroom feel long, but the months are disappearing quickly. We have regular check-ins with MAF, but won't have a destination country for some time still. I'm itching to get working on the field with MAF, but must learn to walk before I can run!

I've had a few chances to meet with some of the engineers-in-training who are further along in the process than I am. It's been great to see how they've grown and a sneak-peak at our possible next steps.

Some exciting news

MAF have been meeting with the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about allowing our experience towards our UK licences to be accumulated partially overseas, which means the original 2 years after the training course that we would work in the UK could be greatly shortened. Meetings have been a great success from what I've been told, we just need the details ironed out as this changes the Engineering Training Scheme's timeline for us.

CHRIS



Athena says:

What do you like about Christmas in Scotland?

Family time together. And presents. There's more snow in Scotland for me to play in!

Praise God for

- The whole family making great friends here
- Chris doing well in his exams and tests
- CAA meetings going towards MAF's proposals
- Financial support target met in 2023

Please pray for

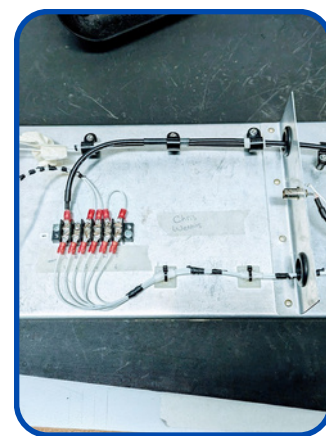
- Kathleen balancing home educating the children and working
- Chris as he studies some of the larger modules coming up



Filing in the hand skills workshop



First Christmas in Scotland



Practical assessment on wiring, crimping, and soldering

Course Outline

During my 20 months at Air Service Training, we have 13 modules to pass by exams (and some timed essays), 14 practical assessments, and 8 weeks Aircraft Maintenance Environment Training (Think work experience with a big airline). Here are the modules so far:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Electrical Fundamentals
- Electronics
- Digital Techniques
- Materials & Hardware
- Maintenance Practises
- Aerodynamics
- Human Factors
- Aviation Legislation
- Aeroplane aerodynamics, structures & systems
- Gas Turbines
- Propellers

Marked are all the modules I have completed, with the Maintenance Practises theory exam and essays coming up in February. With these out the way, we have mostly large modules left and 11 practical tests to go!

What next?

After the course we complete the 8 weeks work experience, usually at Glasgow Airport.

The timeline beyond this is changing and we don't have anything concrete yet, but we are hoping to begin service overseas much sooner than initially expected!

Anything else to share?

A huge "Thank You" to everyone holding us in your prayers and for your gifts enabling us to be here, preparing for serving with MAF.

It's been an eventful year, with many stresses and surprises along the way, but God has been so faithful in every one of our needs. He truly is our rock, place of peace, and shelter. To Him be the glory!

Every blessing,
The Watkins Family



Sinterklaas

Some of our friends in the Netherlands sent us a wonderful surprise - our first care package! Inside we found a guide to Sinterklaas and the Dutch Christmas celebrations on December 5th when Sinterklass (St. Nicholas) travels from Spain and brings children their presents and leaves them shoes left out the night before.

We are pretty sure we did it all wrong, but the kids enjoyed the cultural experience and insist we must do this every year now! With many Dutch MAF employees in programme, I'm sure we'll get it right at some point.

Thank You!