



Josh
Janice
Adilene
Elliot
Oliver

We're Moving to Papua New Guinea!

MARCH '22

A ministry update from
Josh and Janice Snader
and family serving with

MMS Aviation

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First, why does this newsletter look different? The answer is simple: Less ink! Also, procrastination is part of my writing process and so every time I sit down to write a newsletter I first have to tinker with the format before I start writing. Janice says it's a problem, I say it's part of the process.

The big news is that, as of December 23, we've been officially accepted onto the Samaritan Aviation team! I've casually mentioned Samaritan Aviation several times before in previous newsletters but people (including myself) tend to forget these things so I'll go over it again, quickly...

Samaritan Aviation operates on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG) flying air ambulances up and down the 700 mile Sepik river transporting critically ill people from remote river communities with no other hope of emergency medical access to the only hospital in an area the size of Mississippi. If it wasn't for Samaritan Aviation, critically ill patients would have to travel by canoe for 2-3 days down a river full of crocodiles and malaria infested mosquitoes to reach the hospital! Many would never make it. The life saving flights are free of charge and presents us with an opportunity to introduce patients to the greatest physician of all: Jesus Christ! We'll do this by visiting the patients during their stay providing hygiene products, Biblically based trauma and grief counseling, toys (if the patients are children), and friendly faces during times of crisis. The ministry has been very successful, to the point where even the PNG government is requesting an additional presence on the southern side of the island. We're excited to help Samaritan grow their capacity so they can seize these opportunities!

Lord willing, we'll be moving to PNG in September of 2022. We'll be stationed in the city of Wewak beside the hospital where I'll be helping to maintain the fleet of three amphibious Cessna 206s. Janice and the kids will be participating in the hospital visitation ministry and working to build relationships in the community.

Cultural Training

In February we traveled to San Diego, CA to attend some cultural training classes with two other families that will be moving to PNG about the same time as us; the Vissers and the Condons. Tim and Dianna Askew led the classes. They served in PNG as Bible translators for fifteen years so their insight was valuable. I also learned my coworker at MMS is right when he says, "California is full of fruits and nuts and not all of them grow on trees." We did get to dip our toes into the freezing Pacific Ocean and see a few sea lions one evening. Other than that, it was all business! After three days of classes we drove six hours to Phoenix, AZ so we could be part of Samaritan's 20 year celebration. During this time we had a commissioning service for the new missionary families and the newest airplane. It'll be flown to MMS Aviation in the fall where it will be disassembled, containerized, and shipped to PNG.

Oliver Gets COVID

Now go back before all this California business happened, to the beginning of January. Actually, go back to Christmas vacation. We visited my parents in Pennsylvania and all got the new and improved version of Covid. It's improved because it's not as bad, right? Anyway, my mom tested positive for Covid on Christmas



Our family "poses" in front of Samaritan Aviation's newest Cessna 206 which is still in the States. It's "amphibious" which means it can land on runways or water. We had the opportunity to attend the plane dedication in Arizona in February.



Here are the three new missionary families getting ready to be commissioned for their service. We're on the left, Vissers are in the middle, and the Condons are on the right. Bryan Yeager, Samaritan's COO, is moderating.



We'll be based in Wewak (marked on the map) near the base of the 700 mile Sepik River (outlined on the map as well). This is 8,750 miles from our house in Ohio!



Is the Lord leading you to financially support our service with Samaritan?

samaritanaviation.org/missionaries/snader-family



A pregnant mother experiencing complications is unloaded from SA's 206 in Wewak, PNG and will be loaded onto the ambulance to be taken to the nearby hospital.



Janice holds Oliver in Akron's Children's Hospital. Oliver is sporting a splint on his right arm to keep it straight and a plastic protective bubble over his IV.



This is Oliver a few weeks after his hospital stay; chipper, chubby, and gaining weight fast. Of course Adi is on the left and Elliot is on the right.



The Airvan was designed in Australia and is a boxy, square utility purposed airplane. The front door folds forward completely flat and locks into the fuselage. Neat! This one is being prepared for Christian mission service in Haiti!

day. Then the next day Janice came down with the same thing. We spent the rest of our time in Pennsylvania quarantining in my parent's house. It seemed like the next month we all took turns getting sick with the popular neighborhood plagues. So when Oliver got a fever it didn't seem like anything to panic over. But after it kept coming back over a course of three days we became concerned. Janice called the pediatrician and she immediately started screaming about Emergency Rooms and sepsis and things like that. I have an aversion to spending large amounts of money and so to me going to the ER is only something you do when your bleeding from your eyes or your internal organs find themselves becoming external. Still, being that Oliver was so young (about 10 weeks old) he required more specialized care. **So we went to Akron's Childrens Hospital and were admitted for an overnight stay while they ran blood and urine cultures.** Their concern was that the fever was coming from an infection and not a virus. Poor Oliver got a catheter (for a urine sample), an IV (for fluids), and a COVID test. He seemed to hate the COVID test the most of all, which sort of surprised me although I can totally relate. I hate those tests. I was tempted to feel sorry for us. "Come on God," I prayed, "I don't need an expensive hospital bill yet." We were buying tickets for our cultural training trip to California and I was feeling some financial strain. I complained and bickered until I began seeing a lot of other kids in the hospital who were living in their rooms for months on end because they had a rare genetic disease or cancer and I realized that my problems were small. **After all the drama and dust settled, it was determined that Oliver had COVID and not a bacterial infection.** We still haven't received the bill and so you caught me at the best possible time; Oliver is healthy again and it hasn't cost me a thing... yet. We're grateful for medical access, especially with the perspective that joining a medical mission like Samaritan brings us. We know that not everyone has access to this kind of care. Children die from preventable diseases all the time. I'm glad mine don't. I don't want other kids to be dying either, that's why we love Samaritan's ministry. **Praise God that Oliver is healthy, happy, and weighs nearly 14 pounds already!**

Judgment Day Approaches

Maybe I'm getting ahead of myself because really I can't do any of this missionary stuff until I get my mechanic's license with my Airframe and Powerplant ratings. Those tests are coming up in March. I'm about 150 hours away from getting the 4,800 maintenance hours required before the exams and so my sights are set on textbooks and test prep software - though life seems to be intent on preventing me from preparing. I need to file my taxes, prepare for a missions presentation to a school in Virginia, write a newsletter (almost done with that one), and counsel several emotionally fragile appliances in the garage. I'm preparing for three written tests in each of the following categories: Airframe, Powerplant, and General. Then I will have an oral and practical test after that. Once I survive that barrage, I will have the privilege of writing and signing off my own logbook entries. **Pray that I can retain the information I study so that I can pass my exams.**

Airvan Project

Currently in the hangar I'm working on an Airvan. This plane has 17,000 hours on it (that's a lot!) and it comes from Belize where it's humid and salty, a great environment for corrosion and boy does this airplane have a lot of it! Oh well, it's preparing me to deal with corrosion in Papua New Guinea where we'll have similar environmental conditions. This Airvan will support missions and disaster relief in Haiti. **Pray for my supervisor Jay Shearer and I as we prepare this plane for the Lord's service!**

*From a Little Hamlet in Ohio,
The Snaders*