



Nov - Dec 2023

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Dear pastors and prayer partners,

Thanksgiving Day I spent with relatives in North Carolina. The Sunday after Thanksgiving a supporting church invited me to speak for their missions emphasis month. I cannot describe what it does to my heart to walk into a church, be greeted by name by everyone I meet, and be asked specific questions about the things I have written in my letters. Knowing that a church took the time and made the effort to know me and my needs speaks volumes about their love of people and missions, which stems from the love of God.

These couple of months I have been participating with the Go Team in ground school, which is the most basic training for the flying of small airplanes. We are learning for free because our instructor, who is the Olsons' oldest son, wishes to be a blessing to missionaries. At some point, we may go into an area of the world that can only be reached by small airplane, and we want to be prepared if anything should go wrong. Additionally, we believe the more skills we can acquire, the better equipped we are for whatever we may face. Perhaps someday God will allow us to get pilot's licenses and fly ourselves on some of our trips. We are thankful for this opportunity to learn.

We are moving forward with our mission trip to Australia for February to May. God provided our airfares through your consistent prayers and monthly support, plus love offerings and special gifts. Thank you for giving. We got a good price and praise the Lord for that, too. Please pray for all the classes we will teach and the people who will be attending; for the church and for the Deaf; and for hearts to be open to hear the Gospel. We will be ministering at Marie Hopkins' sending church, helping them train new signers and interpreters who will continue the ministry when Marie travels with us in missions.

Please include Amanda and David's school in your prayers. The nature of sign language as well as the myriad delays that occur related to our travels and activities make it especially challenging. Amanda has gone through a lot of health problems this year, is not fully recovered, and has a very difficult time learning.

I plan to teach a beginner sign language class online this spring for some friends in the Caribbean who desire to build deaf ministries. Please pray for that. If you have ever tried to teach, you understand that knowing something and teaching it are two different things. I'm still learning the best ways to teach sign language, but the saying goes that "whom He calls, He equips," which is a Biblical principle. So I press on.

Reaching the Deaf worldwide, Anna Gilkey

