



December, 2015

News from Gero

„Open up before GOD, keep nothing back; HE'll do whatever needs to be done.“
says Psalm 37 Verse 5

Hello my dear friend!

How are you?

Even the title of this letter tells you that something is different:

why not „Aero“gero anymore??? *Long Story!*

Those of you who have contacted me in between will know part of it: after my 1-year break in 2013, I was preparing to go back to South Sudan. But MAF had different plans with me: I should fly in Australia instead. I went to do my licence conversion “Down Under”, which took until May 2015 for various reasons. Even then, I was told to wait up to 9 months for a permanent visa!

So I enjoyed this summer as good as I could:

I organised, and joined kids camps, had the chance to fly to Norway with a friend from my flying club, organised the purchase of a German 4WD for my old friend and colleague Eivind, who is flying for MAF in South Sudan now. I could represent MAF on various occasions (I loved especially those at primary schools!), did motorbike trips, and our gospel choir had the chance to tour in Spain for 1 week, in order to support church planting projects!

But something else happened during this time, too: for some reason, I had a strange feeling going to Australia!

This surprised me quite a bit, especially as I had decided shortly before, to indeed continue my missionary pilot life. Because of this very fact I had gone to Australia twice, in order to renew my MAF training and get my Australian licence!

Nevertheless, I just couldn't ignore what happened inside of me.

And of course I asked GOD what this means, and how I should Interpret it.

After quite some time of praying, thinking, talking with close people, I told MAF that I have no peace about going to Australia.

Unfortunately, this was the only option which MAF had for me at that time. So we had to think about quitting my employment for now. *Quite a step!!*

Throughout all these weeks, I was thinking a lot. I remembered all that good times in Africa; all those important and much needed flights which I was able to do came back to my mind; even all the positive and substantial changes in my personality during this time! I became very grateful for the way GOD had led me in all these years.

The bible says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...” (Eccl. 3:1)

I was encouraged to go this way, too, by the fact that I am feeling a deep peace about it (although it was not my desired decision to be honest). This is something only GOD can accomplish, so I am taking it trustfully out of HIS good hands, and look forward to whatever HE will have in mind for me now.



quick trip to Norway ...



youth camp impressions ...



motorbike maintenance ...

Ok, so Braunschweig it is for now!

My coming months are going to be quite exciting.

I am slowly realising that more or less, my whole life is going to be turned upside-down. Even if I am already in Germany for 3 years - with a few interruptions abroad - until now the prefix of my life here was "I am going to leave Germany again". With this, my private life, my social contacts and all of my organising have been strongly influenced; thus I could do mainly short-term planning so far. But now, I am here "until further notice", and I am actually looking forward to be able to plan a bit more long-term.

The first question is: What kind of job will I get? Will it be flying, or re-activating my engineering background, or maybe something totally different: teacher perhaps (I would be very interested in that area!)?

Most importantly, I wanted to stay in Braunschweig, where I lived for the past 2,5 years. Here I have friends, church, even some of my family close by.

So I was quite happy to hear that our German Civil Aviation Authority (which is located in Braunschweig!) is eagerly looking for more staff!

Nothing I have signed yet, but I am confident that there will be some very interesting job for me, where I could use both my piloting and engineering experiences. What a great opportunity that I take as a gift from GOD!

Besides this, another beautiful gift is waiting for me which happened recently and quite unexpected: after all my years of living as bachelor, with all its advantages and disadvantages, my longing for an own family is still there. Now you might already know what I am talking about!

A beautiful person has entered my life, and she means much to me (and I to her)! And what a nice coincidence, she lives in Braunschweig, too, and goes to my church! So we have quite some valuable time together which we both enjoy (most of the time)!!

I am very excited to see where this all leads. Full of hope, do I very much feel GODs presence in this. Recently, I read a nice saying:

"In the end, everything will be alright. If it's not alright, it's not the end."
(Paolo Coelho)

I would love to say **THANK YOU** to everyone of you personally, although it is not really possible. For your companionship, your interest in me and in the work, and for all other support! You were a great encouragement for me!!

Even my new (short) friends & colleagues in Australia! It was a great time with you, and please forgive me the disappointment I cause you now! You do a great job, and if I would have felt peace about it, I would have so much loved to join your team!! You can be sure about that!

If anyone of you is asking now, "**What happens with Bono?**" (my dear dog), I can tell you that he is still living in Juba with the Dutch family of our base manager. They enjoy him very much, and he is a valuable safety asset to the compound, too!

So, let me say 'Tschuess', and please visit me in Braunschweig one day!!!



Yours, (still) (Aero)-Gero

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charity concert with our choir in Spain

