



December 2012

Aerogero

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to let the oppressed go free ... ?
Is it not to ... bring the homeless poor into your house ...?” Isaiah 58, Verses 6-7*

“Bring the homeless into your house”



The attentive newsletter reader ...

... will notice that the bible verse is the same as last time.
This has a lot of reasons:

First of all, I like it very much;
My church did preach about it last sunday;
Many people talk about fasting (or the attempt) around Christmas;
If I look at this *true* fasting which is proclaimed here: when does it fit more, than at the „Feast of Love“?
Last not least, one or the other might be relieved that he/ she does not have to sacrifice all Christmas-typical goodies like “Lebkuchen” etc. ...

So, why wait? Read in the bible! There is so much more.

Our “fuel station” with Moses in front



In South Sudan

I re-discovered Moses!

A South Sudanese, very tall, had to flee from his home village Pieri a few months ago, when bandits came, turned their village upside-down, and burned huts. For a long time, MAF had stored fuel drum in Pieri, as it was a strategically favorable location. Moses was always there and helped refueling. After this raid (only a few days later, I landed there again), we could not find out what had happened to Moses; Other villagers said that he was able to flee. A few weeks ago, I finally met him in Lankien! This is a village about 35 miles North, with a clinic run by MSF (Doctors without Borders), and Moses offers his services.
What a joy for me!

Not dry, but landing possible:



This is part of South Sudan: There is no such thing like security. Areas close to the border to Sudan report repeatedly Land Mines being found again. I'm only glad we fly, as landing strips are usually not affected by those.

The Rainy season this year was long and heavy. Some of the airstrips were unusable for several weeks, while aid workers helping there had to depend on supplication by air. A real challenge for us pilots, not to turn back with the first rain drops falling, yet not to jeopardize safety. Not always an easy decision.

If only there were no passengers ...

... I would be jobless!
I had days, where the boarding took me 1.5 hrs (!) instead of the planned 30 min's!
Every single passenger had 10-15 kg too much and could not decide what to leave behind ...

On another day, I had more passengers, but they were self-seated (and belted!) in less that 20 min's!

One day, I “forgot” my passenger due to unclear communication. Embarrassing for me, as it would have meant 2-3 hrs dangerous road for the chap - if we wouldn't have had another flight to his village the next day ...

Bono's Ears look much better, thanks to various tips of yours. Thanks you very much! And with NIVEA, he smelled awesome ...

Upper Nile region: a whole lot of “Nothing”!





My leave day: thus I look rather uncool ...



**Eliudi's airplanes still available!
Want to support students:**

Send 70,- € to:

Gero Gringmuth
Netbank AG, Hamburg
BRN: 200 905 00
Acct.: 72 32 780
Subject: Eliudi Charles
BIC/ IBAN available on request.

Thank you much to all!!!

[Here is](#) the online link!
(in German, but who cares?)

It's true: the engine cowling holds a bee hive!
Luckily no MAF plane



In Tanzania

I had a short holiday of two weeks in October. Beautiful! First, I did some Kite Surfing lessons on Zanzibar! It was an amazing time! Do you need addresses or ideas for your next holiday? Ask me. By far the best was, to speak **Swahili** from morning 'til evening (and even learned a few more words).

Thereafter, I visited a few former colleagues and good friends in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. We had not seen each other for quite some years, so there was great joy with everybody. I myself was amazed about the rather short bus ride back to Nairobi. It was all the way a very nice tarmac road; just too many speed bumps for my understanding (but necessary for the safety). It was not more than 5 hrs ride.

In Germany

I'm back in Germ-Land since end of November, 2012 - initially private. One reason is, I really enjoyed Christmas with my family back home last year.

Almost 7 years now, I am serving in Africa - mostly on my own. This is wearing out quite a bit, and therefore I was looking for a chance to have some **time out**. Consequence is now that I won't straight away go back to Africa after my Christmas break, but stay in Germany a while longer. It seems I have to take the "year of sabbatical" literally.

Part of it is for regaining strength and focus for the ministry, but of course after that, I am available for visits, too. If you are lucky, as I am planning to visit the IHOP (int. house of prayer, NOT pancakes!) in Kansas City, I might be able to meet you over there? Just let me know when and where you are. I'd be delighted!

Eliudi Charles

Being in Tanzania, I was able to pick up 4 boxes full of model planes made by Eliudi! Hallelujah! This way, I can continue to **support needy school kids** - if I find enough buyers! 100% will be for school support, no admin fee.

There are more than enough students that look for funding: just recently, one of our co-workers has quit his job with MAF, in order to continue his school. These are the cases where I would like to help. Which is easy thanks to this little planes' project. Keep therefore advertising (or use one yourself as gift)! See details at the side.

Gero

I really love to advertise projects like Eliudi's, as there there is so much need at every corner. And I very much enjoy writing down information and stories about my work. I don't want to forget that even my **wonderful work**, I can only do thanks to donations. So far, it was easy for me, as I had many dedicated supporters who were bearing the work with me: by giving, by praying, or otherwise supporting me!

I am so grateful that I am allowed to know you all, and we can work together! Usually, there is always kind of a „fluctuation“ with donors and donations. In order for us as a team to be able to continue the work that has been entrusted to us, we need some “amplification”.

If this is on your heart, and you love hearing those beautiful stories from Africa: do you want to become part of my team, be it through a monthly donation, prayer support, or otherwise? Then please tell me. I would highly appreciate it.

Now I wish you a merry and peaceful Christmas,

Yours,

(Aero) Gero

Lucky little „Co pilot“:
no other seat was available!

Mail to Germany!
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