

Pulling the Goalie

- Summer 2026 -

If you asked me to sum up my childhood in a single photograph, it would be taken from the back seat of a minivan going down the freeway. Perhaps with my legs crossed having been promised “we’ll stop at the next rest area”, which was sometimes two hours later. As a byproduct of “only the driver touches the radio”, I know the complete lyrics of way more 70’s song than I care to admit and I’ve listened to a large selection of Malcolm Gladwell books on tape and podcasts. On the plus side, all those road trips to sail some random mountain lake or visit grandparents three days away were great training for flying small airplanes. Not only am I content in tight spaces, but my bladder can outlast a full tank of fuel with any plane in our fleet. That’s a more valuable skill than you might think when runways are few and far between.

If you’ve listened to any of the Malcolm Gladwell offerings you’ve no doubt heard of *Pulling the Goalie*. It’s by far my favorite Gladwell story. The theory is a math model that offers a radical suggestion when your hockey team is losing in the final minutes of a game. In this scenario, statistics show the best course of action is to remove the goaltender from the ice to add one more offensive player. This gives the losing team a 6-on-5 offensive advantage at the risk of leaving their own net empty. It’s a bold move, but the analytics show it should be done far earlier than most teams are willing to try.

When you get married later in life, let’s say like 37, family planning discussions have more question marks than exclamation points. My dad would often tell me my biological clock was ticking so loudly he could hear it when I walked into the room. The statistics of fertility declining with age are daunting, and after age 35 it’s often a lengthy process. After looking at the metrics, our strategy became obvious: pull the goalie, everyone on offense, and let the chips fall where they

may. As you can imagine, with no defenders in play, there's an increased risk of an early score, and that's where we find ourselves. We're expecting an expansion player being added to our team in early January.

You're no doubt thinking that a baby on the way while adjusting to married life, additional work responsibilities (more on that later), halfway through my doctoral thesis, and general life in Kenya is a lot of plates to keep spinning. And you'd be right! That old quote that "life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all" makes a better bumper sticker than daily planner, and I covet your prayers in this coming season.

We write this story as a lighthearted way of sharing our news, yet with sensitivity that this journey can be painful and filled with unmet hopes and desires for many. We expected this to be a long road, and we don't mean to diminish the frustration and pain others on this path might go through.

Recent Happenings	I'm Thankful	Prayer Requests
Recently, I was flying in South Sudan delivering supplies to a team living in a very remote location without road access. This continually reminds me why missionary aviation is important. It is a privilege to serve and support such communities where the gospel is not yet known.	I am grateful for a healthy pregnancy – that I'm slowly regaining more energy again. It is a gift to live in a place with good medical care. I'm thankful for a team of mechanics from JAARS that arrived to help with a large aircraft inspection. Seven individuals will be here for one month	Please pray for AIM AIR as we navigate the loss of teammates returning to the US. We are a smaller than usual team and are praying for more mechanics, administrators, and pilots to join us! Please pray for wisdom and learning opportunities as I settle into the new

In July, I spoke at a women's conference with over 500 in attendance. I shared about AIM AIR's work and invited people to pray for the church in East Africa.

assisting with maintenance needs. We are blessed by their contribution!

role. We have several upcoming audits and significant maintenance needs throughout the remainder of the year.

Friends and Family

I hope that you're doing well and enjoying summer. Your summer is our "winter" here in Kenya. While cooler than normal, equator weather keeps things fairly moderate.

There have been many changes since my last update – I'm not sure where to start! David and I celebrated our first year of marriage and continue to enjoy life together. As a creature of habit, it took some time for me to adjust to home life and the rhythms of marriage. And just when I think that I'm accustomed to being a party of two, we now look forward to becoming a party of three. With good medical care available, we plan to remain in Kenya and have the baby here. Both the baby and I are healthy and well so far.

Things have also shifted in terms of my contribution at AIM AIR. David and I both continue to fly. I also care for many of the flight training and operational checks for our team. However, my administrative responsibilities have changed. In April, I stepped into the Accountable Manager role – this position oversees the whole of AIM AIR as an organization. It's been a big change, and I am learning to support our team in new ways. In turn, they have been gracious as I learn and find my footing. The first couple of months felt a bit like firefighting with looming immigration concerns for our Arua base, staff transitions, and the Ebola outbreak affecting Central and East Africa.

However, a steady rhythm is slowly emerging. David continues to serve as Assistant Director of Operations, caring for many day-to-day needs to keep our team flying and moving.

With the baby on the horizon, you might be wondering... what's next? While we can't predict how our lives will shift, we plan to stay in Kenya, continuing to serve and fly with AIM AIR. We look forward to supporting each other in ministry as we enter this new phase of parenthood together.

With all the transitions, my doctorate studies continue. I welcome your prayer to make as much progress as possible before January! I am currently on track to defend my dissertation in May and graduate in June. My studies have been a benefit to both my personal growth and professional role. I'm happy to have professors who are ever helpful and encouraging.

Thank you for your continued faithful prayer and support. I am grateful to have a team of people working with us as we minister and serve – thank you! Until our contrails cross again, wishing you the very best, wherever the Lord may have you.

With Love,
Lindsey, for David, too





Refueling from drums in South Sudan.



A sneaky visitor to the garden.

Lindsey Gray - [2001 Canyon Highlands Dr. Henderson, NV 89052](#)
