

# THE REDEEMED FLYER

Redeemed Flying Corps  
Quarterly Newsletter

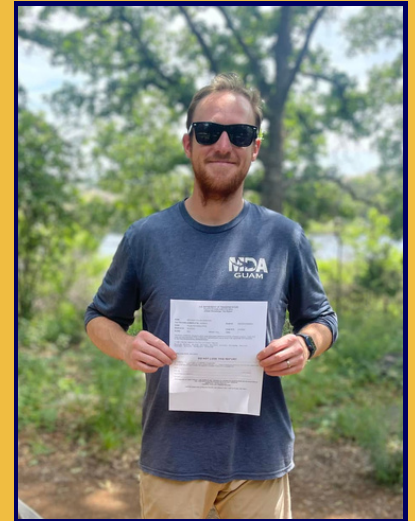
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**STUDENT FEATURE:**  
Benjamin Burkhardt



Photo: Matt Stewart and RFC student, Destiny Essary, celebrating her CFI rating. Aug. 2023.



## I GAVE MY LIFE

**TO CHRIST** in February of 2021. As I was seeking the Lord's path for my life, I realized in reading Matthew 28 that He already had a plan. In the Great Commission, Jesus instructed every believer to go into all nations and make disciples. I heard about the RFC's purpose and knew immediately to go and to do His will through mission aviation. I completed my airframe certification this past spring and am currently pursuing my powerplant certification and my private pilot's license. As my wife and I prepare, please pray for strength and endurance before and during our time as missionaries.

**Help students like Benjamin meet their goals:**



[RedeemedFlyingCorps.org](https://www.RedeemedFlyingCorps.org)

## A LETTER FROM OUR GROUP COMMANDER

### Partnership in the future of mission aviation

It is amazing to see what God can do in a short amount of time. Our prayers have certainly been answered, as we now have three flight instructors running our Central Flying School—one of whom is our very own Destiny Essary, who completed her CFI training at OU this past summer. During a recent visit to SOAR (Service Oriented Aviation Readiness) in Missouri, the RFC, along with other mission aviation agencies, initiated plans for a future curriculum, MAST (Mission Aviation Specific Training). This marks the first time such organizations have collaborated to standardize flight training. This will help tremendously when pilots are ready to be sent into the field by larger institutions, who require outstanding levels of proficiency. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner in this effort, and pray that God would multiply its fruit. In our weekly RFC discipleship meetings, we have begun *The Growing Disciple* study with Meridian University as part of students' theological training, a critical aspect of any mission work. In *The Growing Disciple*, students learn to tell biblical stories, facilitate group study of the Word, and apply its wisdom to their own lives while teaching others to do the same. As always, we appreciate your prayers and support as we pursue Jesus and share Him with others along the way.

*Matt Stewart*

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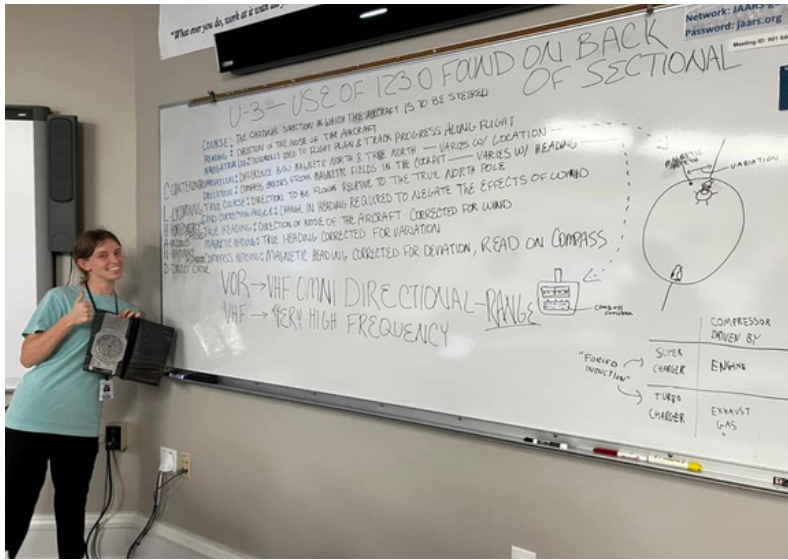


Photo: Destiny Essary teaches CrossVenture|Aero campers navigation. Aug. 2023.



Photo: Jake Bass (left) and Steve Bevelhymmer fly Toña the Helio Courier. June 2023.

## UPDATES: OUR TIME AT JAARS

This past summer, the RFC's first two students (and first pilots!) had the incredible opportunity to serve and sharpen skills at JAARS in North Carolina. Destiny Essary spent two weeks on campus, creating lasting friendships and volunteering as ground school instructor for the CrossVenture|Aero camp. She described her experience watching teenage campers' perspectives broaden and hearts open to missions: "It was so cool to see the students realizing how much is needed in the unreached world. They were justifiably frustrated, bewildered, and one even admitted to being angry—money, resources, and Bibles that are translated into the languages of the unreached are often so scarce. But I loved to see how motivated the campers were. They all left with praying hearts, wondering if serving overseas was meant for them. The JAARS camp is underrated. It opens the eyes of youth to the world outside of the U.S. and to how they can help those who need Jesus. It was an experience like no other."

Earlier in the summer, Jake Bass spent two weeks serving with the JAARS aircraft maintenance team. Jake is currently pursuing his A&P certificate at Metro Tech in Oklahoma City. While stationed in the JAARS hangar, he gained hands-on experience in multiple projects, including installation of the jump package on a Pilatus Porter PC-6 aircraft, preparing it for the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh airshow.

Connecting with old friends and making new ones, Jake absorbed wisdom from missionaries, A&Ps, and pilots alike. "I felt God encouraging me and felt that He used a lot of people at JAARS to encourage me. To keep going, not to give up, to stay strong. Sometimes you get discouraged. Sometimes you get tired. This was a trip that filled me up. I'm so very thankful." He was especially inspired by his conversations with the missionaries. "Sometimes I tend to think of the mission field as something that's far away, or distant, but it's not. I talked with people who've seen firsthand what God is doing. I was so motivated by that. God is at work. He's bringing light into these dark, forgotten places of the earth."

Jake also felt challenged by the high standards so evident at JAARS. "They have such a rich history of safety and they maintain that on a daily level. It really motivated me to continue pursuing excellence where I'm at right now in my training. I think about JAARS whenever I do a project at Metro Tech [in Oklahoma City]. I'm doing Kingdom work, and that deserves every bit of my focus and energy. I take that challenge now with me every single day."

His stay wasn't all work and no play, however. He jumped at the opportunity to fly Toña, the iconic Helio Courier that has been taken on missions around the world. "What an awesome airplane. So much to handle, so much going on. You never can slack off when you're flying that plane. By the end of that intro flight, I was thinking: What a beast I'm flying right now. I need to learn how to fly this airplane!" ✈️

## PRAYER REQUESTS & CURRENT NEEDS

- Wisdom for RFC leadership
- Financial resources for training
- Laborers to help us repair "Doug," and funds for upcoming "Red Rocket" engine overhaul (both Cessna 150s)