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Altitude Adjustment

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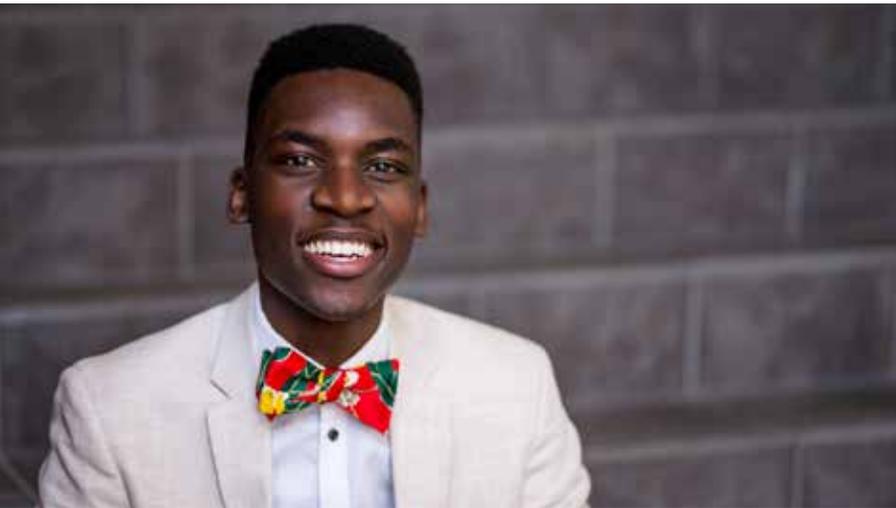
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Altitude Adjustment

By Jephthah Ndlovu



Jonathan Logan

▲ Jephthah Ndlovu

ONE OF MY EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

is the fire in my belly to become a pilot. I had never boarded an airplane or visited an airport, but I was, interestingly, inspired by the birds that I'd see flying in the sky. Their graceful flight kept me thinking that one day I, too, could fly the boundless skies. Being cognizant of my dreams, my eternally optimistic mother would always look me straight in the eyes and say, "My son, God will make you fly a plane one day."

I am blessed to have grown under godly parents who are my secondary role models after Jesus Christ. My dad is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister and, because of that, my childhood was adventurous. One of the early lessons that life taught me was the inevitability of change. My dad's pastoral ministry meant that we would frequently relocate homes when he was assigned to a different church. Eventually, my dad accepted the call to serve at Solusi University in Zimbabwe, the place which I now regard as my home.

In 2014, I had the awesome privilege of attending the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and visited Andrews University. On my flight back to Zimbabwe, my prayer was, "God, you have placed this calling to be a pilot within me. Moreover, I've seen firsthand the fleet of planes at Your institution. Next year this time, I need to return to Andrews and

pursue aviation so I can fly and take the Three Angels' Messages to the whole world."

God saw to it that the next year, fall 2015, I enrolled as an aviation flight student at Andrews. I believe in a God who still answers prayer, and each semester has propagated a testimony. One of the many is God's mind-boggling intervention in my finances at Andrews. I received an email which I label as a "Divine hook-up." The email was from then-provost Andrea Luxton. At first, I thought it was one of the random messages we receive as students, but this one had my name on it. God had answered our family prayer. I had received the "Dare to Dream" scholarship which alleviated my financial burdens.

During my first semester, there were countless moments when someone would mistake me as a seminary student. Being a Religion major had never crossed my mind, but then I had a life-threatening experience during the second semester of my freshman year and was admitted to the ICU. After this experience and many other indications, I was convicted to add Religion as a second major to Aviation. I believe these two will complement each other well in my dream to be a missionary pilot. Since my time in the hospital, it has never been medically explained what actually caused the experience.

The Federal Aviation Administration interrupted my aviation journey because they would not risk me flying after that experience. They still have not cleared me to fly, although they have asked for information in an ongoing review process. As disheartening as that could be, my faith is unwavering because of the promise that He who has begun a good work in me is faithful to mold me into the missionary pilot He would want me to be.

Jephthah Ndlovu, a member of the contemporary gospel a cappella group, Watchmen, graduated Andrews University May 2019 with a BA in Religion.

Jephthah received a \$100 scholarship for his article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org