



God is Our Instructor

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

—Deuteronomy 31:6

Would you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?

I did! After receiving my private and commercial pilots licenses in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, my desire was to serve in mission aviation. I needed more flying experience so I took a flying job with the local skydiving club.

Along with that decision came the need to learn to skydive. If I was going to fly groups of parachuters, I better know how to “jump out of a perfectly good airplane” just in case the need ever presented itself.

After half a day of ground training I was ready to go “jump for joy.” While walking to the plane, I was

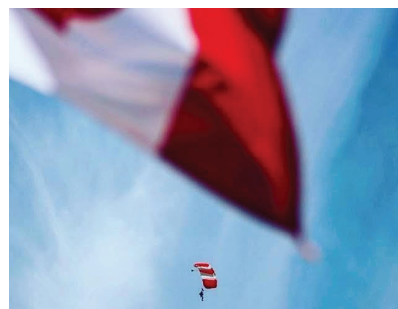
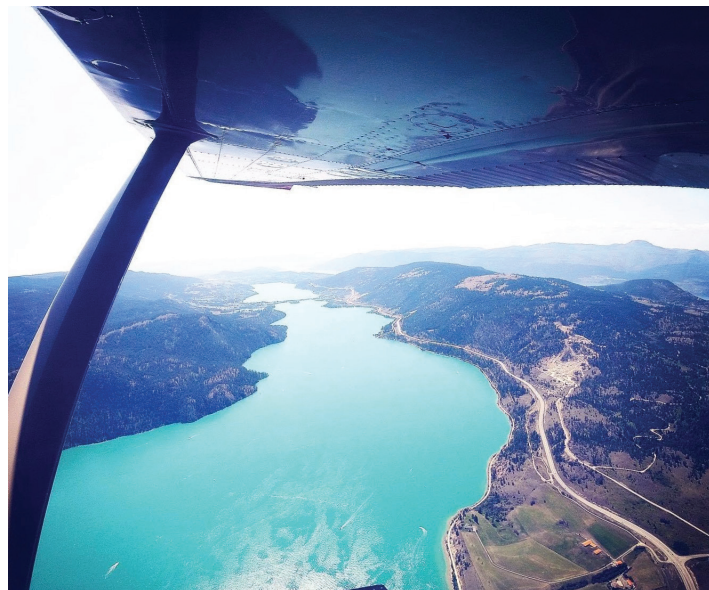
trusting and praying that the instructor had shown me everything I needed to know. The plane door opened and I crawled on my knees from the back of the plane to my instructor. He looked me in the eye and said, “Are you ready?” At this point I could still say no and stay in the safety of the airplane, but if I said yes and started to exit the aircraft it would be too unsafe for me to return. Obviously, I said yes! All went well as I climbed out onto the wheel and then grabbed the strut of the aircraft. I was hanging on for dear life and letting my feet dangle in the wind. Then I came face to face with a big issue... trust! Could I trust my training? Could I trust my parachute to open? Could I trust the guy who packed it? As I pondered these questions I was shocked back into the moment when my instructor screamed in my face, “GO! GO! GO!” One quick talk to Jesus and I let go. For three or four very long seconds I thought, “Wow, this is peaceful.” Then the parachute opened and

it got noisy. A voice over the radio said, “Welcome to skydiving.” Reaching up I pulled down the steering handles and put my flying skills to good use. I had learned a new life-saving skill and strengthened my faith all in one day.

God is our instructor from heaven and we trust that He has shown us all we need to be Christians. Following God’s biblical instructions, strengthening our spiritual practice by understanding the scriptures and praying daily, we are ready to jump for our beliefs.

I encourage you to seek out a deeper connection with the Lord to take on His adventures that will require all the courage you have and all the skills you have learned. Have faith in Him and His Word. Now go jump for joy for Him!

If someone claims that Christians make a “blind leap of faith,” you can respond with, “No, it’s not at all a blind leap. Faith is like skydiving. You check out your parachute beforehand making sure it is secure. You follow the instructions and training. Then when there is no turning back - you jump! It’s a leap, but it’s not a blind leap. It’s an informed leap. Trust in Him and He will always see you through.



God bless you!

Ray and Julie Young



**Your AWA Mission Family
at AWA Canada:
Ray and Julie Young**



PRAYER REQUEST: AWA is seeking qualified pilots, and dedicated project managers to take the challenge and jump into mission service.



PROJECT NEEDS:

- monthly financial support for Where Needed Most funds
- support for the Cessna 172 C-GHFS in Lillooet, BC
- support and prayers for the plane delivery to Sioux Lookout, Ontario
- funding for a Canadian hanger