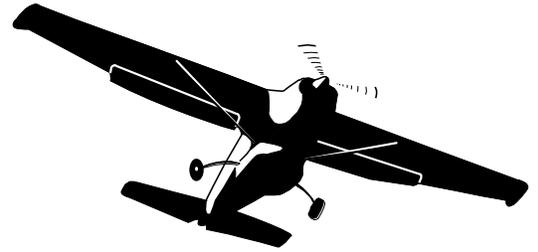


Mission Aviation Fellowship

BOX 47, NAMPA, IDAHO 83653



LePoidevin Prayer Release

Happy New Year, Family and Friends,

OFFICIAL MAIDEN FLIGHT

JANUARY 2017



I did not get a chance to tell you about this last month, so I will include it in this month's letter. Back in December, we hosted some special visitors in our hangar: a dozen or so of VIPs in our province. The guest of honor was the



Nampula provincial governor, Sr. Victor Borges. Other guests included various provincial ministerial directors (transportation and communication, labor, investments, etc.). We showed them a video of what Ambassador/MAF is all about and told them our appreciation for their support in allowing us to operate in their province. Most of the VIPs went on a flight in our new Caravan to an airstrip on the coast that is connected



to a resort, to which we sometimes ferry visitors back and forth. On the return to Nampula, the Caravan was met by the airport's firetrucks and their water cannons, a traditional salutation for a successful maiden flight. The picture on the right shows the provincial governor in the VIP lounge at the airport, cutting the cake with the AA (Ambassador Aviation) logo on it.

An event like this might seem frivolous and outside of the realm of what we as MAF do. However, a good relationship with government entities is a big part of the machine that runs the ministry of Ambassador Aviation. In past years we have struggled a great deal with that part of operating here, so we know very well what a blessing it is to see it improve the last couple of years.

- ***Ambassador Aviation is blessed to have good support from the local government***
- ***Please pray for wisdom in maintaining the government relationships we have built over many years***

LACK OF RAIN

The rainy season started off pretty well in December, with regular though light rain. "Light" has turned into "very little", and it is beginning to look precarious for the crops of corn and peanuts waiting to fill hungry people's tummies. Our dirt yard always stays flooded to a greater or lesser degree during the first two to three months of the year. At the end of January, it had not been flooded at all; the little bit of rain that has come has soaked into the ground. Rain clouds move in but bring only a few drops. Only once so far have we had a real rainy season rain shower/thunder storm. This seems to be the state over most of the north of Mozambique, except for the Lichinga area to the far west on the border with Malawi.

- ***Please pray that God would provide enough rain in February to save the crops so people will have food!***
- ***Pray that this situation will cause people to turn away from their animistic beliefs and seek the Lord's help***

PASSING THE BATON

Since we first arrived in Nampula in 1999, except for a couple of years somewhere in the middle, Dave has been the program manager of MAF in Mozambique. He "birthed" the program, and his job has been to make sure the ministry we do conforms to MAF's safety, financial, and ministry objectives. It has involved working with the government on many levels, networking, banking, taking care of staff issues, planning the budget, and a host of other things, besides flying and maintaining the aircraft. It

has at times been a very stressful job, while at other times highly fulfilling. It has been a contrast of shaking hands with national government ministers and helping a dying patient with oozing body fluids in and out of the airplane. It has been one thing for sure: Serving. And by the grace of God, and thanks to the servant heart God has given him, Dave tenaciously held on and continued to serve through some very difficult lows and some wonderful highs.

As of January 1st, this challenging job is now in the hands of our capable colleague, Steve Simpson. It is with a sigh of relief and a bit of a heavy heart, that Dave passes the baton to Steve. Dave will not miss the grueling multi-tasking and the heavy responsibilities of managing the work, but part of his heart will always be closely knit to the success of it.

- ***Please pray for Steve and Nikki as they carry on leading the work of MAF in Mozambique***
- ***Pray that Dave can quickly find his place and role as manager of training and maintenance***
- ***Pray for the whole team to adjust well to the changes and new dynamics***

FAMILY UPDATE

Robbie continues to do well and works on his pottery in the garage. Karina has taken up studying Norwegian and relearning French via an app on her phone. ☺

It has been quite rainy in southern California this winter, which cleared the smog. Sylvia has enjoyed the rain and the clear and sunny days following.

Thomas is back at LeTourneau in Texas for the spring semester of his 4th year of college (one more to go until he graduates in December). It is a challenging semester with the Senior Design project. It needs to be finished and proved working by the end of April. Thomas is hoping to attend an intensive 8-week Korean language study in Korea this summer, and after the first round of applications, he has been accepted. Now he is waiting for the second and final word sometime in February.

Conversation with Annie on the morning of Friday, January 27th:

Me: "Annie, do you know what day it is today?"

Annie: "Yes, it's Friday and tuck shop at school!" [Tuck shop is a fundraising snack shop.]

Me: "True, but it's also Daddy's birthday."

Annie: "WHAT???!!!!"

It was rather cruel of me to wait until the same day to tell our passionate party planner. Giving her very little time to plan, shop, decorate, and bake was almost more than she could bear. However, with the stomach flu passing through each of us in turn, I did not know if any of us would be up to any partying on the day. She finally agreed that doing it on Saturday was OK. We both felt well enough Saturday morning to make a quick run to the nearest grocery store for some chocolatey treats to wrap for her daddy, and we baked a chocolate cake. And Daddy felt well enough to eat a little bit of it. ☺

- ***Pray for continued grace for Karina and Robbie***
- ***Thankful for the rain/snow that California so desperately needed!***
- ***Please pray that God would supply the daily strength that Thomas needs for this semester***
- ***Thankful for Annie and the joy and life she brings to our family***

The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis is so fascinating in many aspects. The dreams that came true, the cruel way he was treated twice and how God both times rescued him and gave him a prominent position, the chain of events that brought the brothers to Egypt, and the emotional disclosure to both the brothers and the father. Incredible the way God works sometimes! And then the big story: the making of a nation that was to inhabit the Promised Land, a promise given hundreds of years before to their ancestor Abraham. And bigger yet: the climax of the Passover, which pointed to Jesus being the sacrificial lamb for all times, giving believers access to THE Promised Land! What a privilege to be able to look back at this history from our vantage point and to see the hand of this amazing God!

It is rather exciting to think of being part of the big story that God is writing here in Mozambique. I really have no idea of the long-term effect of our ministry here, but with God, the possibilities are beyond comprehension. Thank you so much for your effective prayers for God's kingdom to go forward through us!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins

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