

news from **Gene and Jen Arnold**

serving with **Mission Aviation Fellowship**

at **Moody Aviation**

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Blessed are . . .



Jesus Teaching Crowds on a High Plain, by William Hole

The Spirit of God is such a masterful teacher! He brings life's routines into alignment, producing teachable moments in a way no one else can. For some time I, Gene, had been trying to start a read of *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard. It's a thick book, written by a professor of philosophy, so I reasonably expected a lot of large words. I finally launched into it in late spring, at the same time our pastor, in his series on Luke, reached Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Together our pastor and Willard (and the Holy Spirit, too) began to open my mind to some of the great thoughts in this sermon.

A really important word in the sermon is "blessed," because this state of blessedness is exactly what's offered by Jesus to those who hear him. The Greek term for "blessed" refers to the highest state of well-being possible for human beings. It is enjoyed by those who are in moment-by-moment fellowship and life with God. Amazingly, however, as Jesus calls out the ranks of the blessed, he lists the very groups of people his hearers would identify as the *least* blessed in their community: the poor, the hungry, the mournful, and the rejected! Jesus is not making a list of life situations which *qualify* someone to be blessed, but saying rather that these who qualify for nothing else in life, *do* qualify for the blessed life in his kingdom, because Jesus has come, in the sufficiency of God, to meet their appalling need! It is the hopeless and destitute who are blessed, not *because* they are hopeless and destitute, but because the Kingdom is available to even them.

This, then, is the amazing work God has called each of us to: to declare to the hopeless and rejected all around us that the Kingdom has come, and is available in its fullness and blessing to all who dare to hope in it. If it's the hopeless who qualify, who then is that? They're everywhere around us. From the forgettable: those who are too old, too fat, too plain, too nerdy or too short. To the failures: the drop-outs, flunk-outs, burned-outs, the addicted and the divorced, the overworked and the unemployable, the abused and the broken. To the downright frightening: burglars and con-men, street-walkers and pushers, pornographers and pedophiles. *Blessed, blessed, blessed* are these! Each qualifies to enter the kingdom. Praise God! "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God," (I Cor. 6:11, ESV). The great grace of our God is able to welcome all who apply.

Growing up in Indonesia, I worshiped with believers who had been cannibals and polygamists. Here, I stand with recovering materialists and homosexuals. Together, as recipients of grace, we are welcomed into the Kingdom, and help each other along the road. Thanks for *your* partnership in announcing this blessed news!

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. Psalm 32:1,2 ESV



Into the Harvest Moody recently graduated another class of kingdom-bearers. Among them are maintenance specialists and pilot-mechanics. All are well-trained technicians, but more important, all are lovers of God, and have fitted themselves to share the blessings of His kingdom from here to the ends of the earth.

Some of these are staying on for another semester and I’m training them as instructors. There are several reasons for our grads to take this step. It really hones their own skills when they are forced to articulate and demonstrate what they know in order to teach it to others. Also, after five years of spending money on school, it gives them a marketable skill so they can turn the cash flow around. And, on the mission field, pilots must constantly test and train each other to keep their skills well-sharpened and safe. In any case, it fits Paul’s instructions in 2 Timothy 2:2, “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Summer Slump Knowing I work at a school, people ask me this time of year how I’m enjoying my summer break. They’re surprised when I tell them there is no break. Summer is our busiest time. Flight training at 48° north latitude, we can’t afford to give up the beautiful summer weather. Even so, summer can have a relaxed feel. Unfortunately, our ministry support also tends to relax in the summer! And it’s falling back into the danger zone. We’re asking you to not let *your* partnership slump this summer. And if possible, maybe you could add some extra to cover the gap. Together we can continue training and sending workers for the harvest.

Thanks again for praying, encouraging and giving,



Gene *Jan*
Rachelle *Nate* *Rose*
 Andrew

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