

news from **Gene and Jen Arnold**

serving with **Mission Aviation Fellowship**

at **Moody Aviation**

**March 2015**

The other day I (Gene) taught a *spinning* class. No, it wasn't some nod to my Amish roots; nor did it involve a stationary bicycle, though the student might have broken a sweat. No, "spinning" in an airplane involves flipping over rather suddenly and going 'round and 'round while pointed at the good green earth.

*Wait! Stop! Don't be scared. Please keep reading . . .*

I know some of you are skittish about flying, so please be assured that getting into a spin is pretty unusual and takes a fair bit of intentional effort. If you'll bear with me a moment, I'll give you the gritty details.

Airplanes make lift and fly when the wind flows smoothly over the wings. A "stall" is when the wind stops flowing smoothly, usually because the nose of the airplane has been pulled up too abruptly. So a spin requires the wing to be stalled, but a spin also calls for the airplane to rotate, because one wing must be stalled more than the other. This sets up a difference in lift and drag between the two wings, causing the airplane to happily rotate like a falling maple seed. In short, we get into a spin by pulling the nose up briskly and kicking the rudder hard to make the airplane turn as the wing stalls. Even better news, we can make it end this nonsense by stopping the rotation (with opposite rudder) and pushing the nose down to restore the smooth flow of wind over the wings.

*Okay. But was all that really necessary? Can't we just keep it right side up? Yeah. Honestly, we all like it better that way. But we have to teach spins to students who are becoming teachers, so that if someday the worst happens and they're upside down, they'll have the confidence and skills to make it all right again. And you know what? When you've got the confidence and skills, a spin can be fun. No, really, it can!*

I'm thinking this might be true in life, too. God has us begin with baby steps to gain confidence. Later, we enjoy a good run. Then, He calls us to go climbing on the mountains with Him. And some of those mountains can be pretty steep and scary: *Will my uncle beat the cancer? When will my child stop making foolish and harmful decisions? How are we ever going to make the house payment this month? When will the ministry God's placed in my hands bear fruit?*

The prophet Habakkuk faced these questions, too. When it looked like all promises were lost and all hope destroyed, he said: "*God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places,*" (Hab. 3:19, ESV). Picture it: there is the deer, high on the jagged cliffs, confident in its skill, leaping from rock to rock, full of joy. God is training us so that when life gets crazy and upside down like a spinning airplane, or scary and dangerous like a mountain cliff, we respond with confidence in Him, and He fills us with the skill to navigate it with His great joy.



## Around the Patch

This spring I'm working with recent graduate, Evan, who is preparing for his teaching credential (Certified Flight Instructor--CFI). He is also working as an aircraft mechanic maintaining our training fleet and enjoying life with his new bride, Nicky.

TE Preps are also underway. When a pilot/mechanic seeks to join a mission, he or she is usually given a two-week test of flight and maintenance skills called a "technical evaluation" (TE). Moody offers a "spit-and-polish" preparatory course to give candidates that last bit of needed confidence to perform well on the test. We offer the course to both Moody grads and others who are looking for a little help.

This spring I'm doing several of these. **Justin** (a Moody grad) and his wife, Callene, are starting "Wings of the Way" under the umbrella of United Indian Mission. **Jacob** (non-Moody) is from north Idaho and plans to serve with JAARS (part of Wycliffe Bible Translators). **Stefan** is Swiss, trained in Canada, and plans to serve with MAF-International (a sister organization to MAF-US). **Steve** graduated a few years ago, and after working for Boeing and interning with MAF, is planning to serve full-time with MAF.

In addition to these, I'm also working with graduates Jonathan and DJ who have stepped away from flight for a little while, but are now looking to hone their skills again.


Thanks again for your partnership with us, which allows these fine young people the chance to step into ministry fully prepared with technical excellence and strong spiritual foundations.

## Around the House

Thanks for your on-going prayers for the family. Nate has returned to school after several months out with illness! Rachelle had a little set-back in February, but is back on an even keel now. Jen was also sick this winter, but is improving. Rose and Andrew are doing great. As for me, I'm rejoicing, because this month marks twenty wonderful years of being married to my extraordinary wife! I am blessed.

**Rejoicing in the One who has made our steps secure,**

*Gene and Jen*



*"For who is God, but the Lord?  
And who is a rock, except our God?—  
the God who equipped me with strength  
and made my way blameless.  
He made my feet like the feet of a deer  
and set me secure on the heights.  
He trains my hands for war,  
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.  
You have given me the shield of your salvation,  
and your right hand supported me,  
and your gentleness made me great.  
You gave a wide place for my steps under me,  
and my feet did not slip."*

Psalm 18:31-36 ESV

## Praise God with us!

- For improving health in the family
- For the young people preparing themselves and stepping into service
- For a couple new ministry support partners—this encourages us greatly!

## Pray with us:

- For students to finish well this semester (graduation is Memorial Day weekend)
- For continued and increasing health and strength for the family
- For our ministry support which is still hovering just above 80%

## Ministry Support:

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