

A Robin, Two Sparrows and God's Goodness

I (Gene) stepped outside on a late spring day. Working in the yard I saw a robin scurry from one bush to another. Intrigued, I looked closer and saw he had a broken wing. His mate perched nearby, full of concern. I was caught in a mix of emotion—sad for the robin's suffering, but also wondering what difference one robin, more or less, would make in the world—until I remembered that our Father is good and cares for even the little birds that fall.

Then I was reminded of a much larger truth, for on June 2, one of our graduates and his wife passed away in an airplane crash while performing a mission flight (not with MAF) for a hospital in Zambia, Africa. Survived by their young daughters, Jay and Katrina were good, godly people, highly skilled, and beginning to serve where God and their hearts had led them. As I grieved over my former student, God gently reminded me that if a sparrow can't fall without His care, how much less can His own children. Why He chose to let this "sparrow" fall, I don't know, but I do know that He is still strong and loving and that He is working all things for good.

Then, I also remembered another student who graduated just this spring. Alyssa had emailed me a few years earlier; her mother's friend was on our mailing list and through that connection Alyssa ended up with a copy of our letter. She was working on her pilot's license, was interested in missions, and wanted to know more about Moody's mission aviation training program. We invited her to visit. She looked at the school, rode on a flight, and decided to join the program. We arranged housing with friends, whom she lived with through the five-year program. During her internship in Kenya she decided to emphasize airplane maintenance rather than flight, and graduated this spring as a maintenance specialist. During her time in Spokane she also met Shawn, and the two were married a week after graduation. I can't wait to see what God does with them, but I know that He is working all things for good.

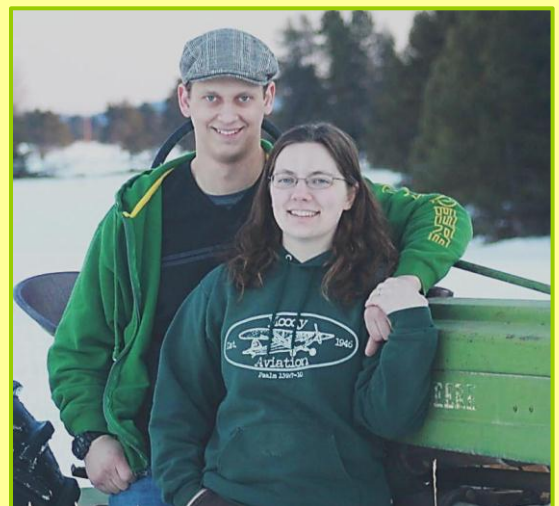
It's amazing how God puts the pieces together: you, us, MAF, Moody, and the students; and though we don't always understand His ways, I know that as we obey Him, He will ultimately accomplish his good purpose. Thanks for being part of the ministry of MAF together with us.



*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
outside your Father's care. . . . So don't be
afraid; you are worth more than many
sparrows."* Matthew 10:29,31 NIV



Jay, Katrina and daughters



Shawn and Alyssa



Handmade flight simulator for the MAF flight school in Southeast Asia



Moody's new maintenance training facility in the historic Air National Guard Hangar

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A Different Kind of Flight School

Of course, you all know that MAF has us on-loan to Moody Aviation's school for missionary pilots. But did you know that MAF has a flight training school of its own? You see, MAF's vision is: "Sharing the love of Jesus Christ through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed." For a number of years MAF has been looking for a way to share Jesus with the people of a closed country in Southeast Asia, but all attempts to start a flight program were denied. Then, MAF's missionary in-country realized there was a strong need for high-quality flight training for national pilots for the local airline. Furthermore, many of MAF's pilots are already Certified Flight Instructors. Once the idea of a flight school was proposed, doors began to open. MAF obtained a couple of training airplanes, and, also, with a lot of creativity, built a flight simulator in-country. Now, there is a legally registered flight training school set up to serve the country. It is staffed with Believers, who rub shoulders every day with people who have no other access to the Gospel. Thank you for your partnership through MAF in this flight school, as it brings spiritual transformation to the people of Asia.

Moody News

This winter Moody's new initial maintenance training program launched in the freshly renovated historic Washington Air National Guard Hangar. Then, the end of spring brought graduation for another class of mission aviators. This fall, I continue working with the class I had this spring as they develop more skill in high-performance airplanes. Our capstone project this fall will be a ten-day trip to the southwest US, both through big airports like Seattle and Salt Lake City, and also through the mountains on back-country gravel and grass strips. We're really looking forward to it!

And the Family

The boys had a rough spring with their health and missed a lot of school, but they are improving steadily, and the doctor is pleased with their progress. Meanwhile, the girls are still in Haiti while we wait for their visas to be issued. It's got to be soon now!

Finally, we'd like to ask for your special consideration and prayer. Our ministry support with MAF is running low by almost \$1700 per month. We'd love to see this brought up so the ministry of MAF in places like Spokane and Southeast Asia can remain strong.

Thanks again for your prayers, support and partnership in the Gospel,

*Gene Jen Nate Andrew
(Carmelle & Néhémie)*