

What Should Worship Look Like?

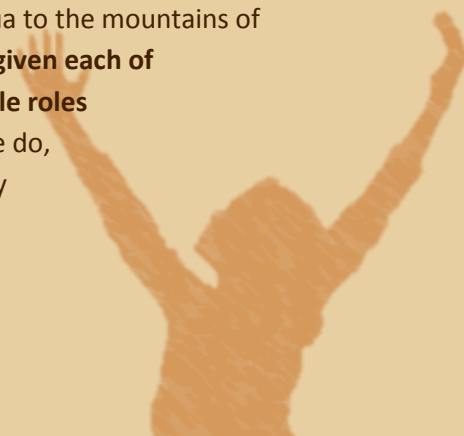
Not long ago, I (Gene) was at our church for an evening meeting. Walking past the fellowship hall I was surprised to see our friend busy at work. Pausing for a moment, I saw she was decorating for a missions luncheon coming up the next day. A short-term mission group had returned from the coffee-growing regions of Papua New Guinea, and she was lovingly creating a coffee house theme to celebrate their return and congregational report. It was beautiful, and I said so. She modestly put me off. Noting how I could no more decorate the church than she could teach someone to fly, I remarked how wonderful it was that God had fitted each of us with different gifts to serve the Church and to glorify Him. She replied, "I wish I had a more spiritual gift!"

So, what is it that makes an appropriately spiritual gift? In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Paul instructs us, "*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work,*" (NIV, emphasis mine). God gifts us according to His pleasure! How can one gift from His hand be less than another? How can He not be pleased by the exercise of our gift for the benefit of His Church? The runner and missionary, Eric Liddell, said, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure."

Of course, God is worthy of our focused worship. But I become more convinced that the everyday acts of our lives can and should be acts of worship as well. The seventeenth century monk, Brother Lawrence, wrote, "We can do little things for God . . . It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God" (*The Practice of the Presence of God*).

So, is arranging a beautiful coffee table a less spiritual gift than leading singing? I don't think so. Whenever we offer back to God whatever He has placed in our hands He is highly pleased. And, just as our Lord is redeeming people from every nation, tribe people and language, He is also redeeming account managers, plumbers, teachers, beauticians, preachers and pilots. He made us in His image, and it is only **together** that we begin to adequately reflect back to Him the diversity and magnificent beauty of His glory.

Therefore, God calls the evangelist to preach, the pilot to carry him to the village, the mechanic to keep the airplane in good repair, the bookkeeper to order fuel, the givers to give, and the prayer warriors to pray. And that's how it is that God's Kingdom is being built from the valleys of Papua to the mountains of Lesotho. **God has given each of us gifts and suitable roles to play.** And, as we do, we reflect His glory in a thunderous chorus of worship!



Graduation

Late spring is so much fun around the hangar because the students earn their final certifications and we get to celebrate their achievements. Another ten have completed the program and are looking toward their next steps into mission service. Among them is **Pauline**. She is the first woman to complete the flight program since Moody moved to Spokane eight years ago, and so we are all very proud of her!



Something New

Pauline, like most of her class is planning to stay on at Moody through the summer to take the *Certified Flight Instructor* course. This prepares the students to be teachers themselves. It's really challenging because it's a review of the past two years of flight training, and this time the students have to try to teach the maneuvers, not just perform them. MAF likes students to take this course because it really cements their training, whether they go on to teach or not. I've taught this course for the past few years, and am looking forward to teaching it again.



The Big Ministry Support Gage

Wow, praise God, we've had some good improvement in the ministry support gage! The needle has risen to around 93%. This is great, because it takes us further from the **RED** danger range, and out of the **YELLOW** caution range. We hugely appreciate the ones who have dug deep to make this happen.

We still need to move into the **GREEN** normal range for the long term. Would you consider increasing your support of our ministry with MAF to **keep up with inflation**? If you haven't given in a while, it's easy to start: just drop us a line, or go to www.maf.org/arnold to explore the ways you can give. Even occasional, **one-time gifts are really helpful**—especially in the summer months!

Thanks So Much

Thank you for the role you have in this ministry. Your love for the Lord is evident in your faithful partnership in the Gospel. Rejoicing in Christ,

Gene Jen Nate
 Rose Rachelle Andrew

Praise God with Us!

- For another class of mission graduates
- For another year of safe flight training
- For a healthy increase in our ministry support
- For the girls adjusting well to their new lives
- For the end of the school year for our kids
- For good visits with supporters in Arizona and Michigan

Pray with Us

- For the class of students about to start training
- That we find good answers for Andrew's long-term health
- For Jen's daily health and strength
- For our ministry support to reach 100%

Contact Us

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