

News from

Gene and Jen Arnold

serving with

Mission Aviation Fellowship

at **Moody Aviation**

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In 1956, MAF pilot Nate Saint was one of five missionaries martyred in the Ecuadorian jungle. The remains of his airplane are now displayed at MAF headquarters.

Does God Want Us Safe?

Our western society is obsessed with safety: we have signs and placards, railings and warning tapes, rules, laws, OSHA, hard hats, steels toes, and safety glasses. We wear our seat belts, don't stick our hands out the car windows, dress warmly, and look both ways before crossing the street.

Part of my work at Moody Aviation is to chair the Safety Committee, and I am responsible for policies and manuals, forms and reports, training and drills. We work very hard to teach our students both good skill and good judgment in hopes of avoiding accidents.

We are always looking for ways to improve the safety training for our students. So, last month I took a week of personal security training of the sort that MAF and other mission personnel take before moving overseas. I found it very informative and helpful.

As this letter is being sent out I am attending another week-long conference on aviation safety. We are looking at proven methods of keeping out of aeronautical danger.

So it's obvious. Of course, we want to be safe! Who would want to risk an accident, or worse?

On the other hand, we cannot be completely safe and hope to accomplish anything. If safety were truly our first consideration, we would never launch into the sky in small airplanes. We would not venture into parts of the world where there was any chance of hostility.

In fact, it's likely we'd end up like the sluggard in Proverbs 22:13, who worries that there is a lion in the streets, and so he stays in bed.

The truth is that God does call us to difficult places of service. Therefore, we cannot shrink back, but we must be wise in the face of danger. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus warned His disciples: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves"* (NIV). Paul also demonstrated this balance of trust and wisdom in 2 Timothy 4:17,18: *"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen"* (NIV).

A Credit to Your Account

In Philippians 4:10-20, Paul takes opportunity to thank the church at Philippi for their partnership with him in the Gospel. If we may borrow his language, we also want to thank you for your partnership with us in the Gospel.

"Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles." We have served with MAF now for over eight years, and the road was not as straight as we had imagined it would be.

Thanks for sharing with us as we have dealt with Jen's health issues and had our ministry redirected from Venezuela to Spokane. Thanks for praying for us and for our students and other needs we've made known to you.

"You sent me aid again and again when I was in need." Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting our ministry through these years of economic difficulty. Every month you are faithful, and we are grateful.

"Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account." Because you have been faithful in your partnership with us over our years with MAF at Moody, you have had a hand in training approximately seventy missionary families. Graduates of our program have gone on to serve in Indonesia, the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Botswana, Alaska, and other places. The Lord is crediting these nations to your account.

"I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied . . ." Our personal needs have always been met. However, because of the continually growing cost of doing ministry around the world, MAF has had to raise the recommended ministry support levels by \$700 per month. We are sure you already know that in general, living expenses are rising at 3% per year, and medical expenses at 6%. In order to act responsibly toward its own staff, MAF seeks to cover these expenses.

"[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." As you have already been faithful, we ask that you would consider increasing your giving as a fragrant offering to God, so that even more may be credited to your eternal account.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Christmas Presents?

Since our visit to Haiti in April we have been waiting news of further progress with the girls' adoptions. Finally, at the end of September we received word that their paperwork had been approved by the Haitian Ministry of the Interior, and the next step would be to seek Haitian passports for the girls. Typically, this process has taken two to three months, but *just one week later* we received word that the passports had been issued! Praise God!

Now the paperwork is being turned over to the US Embassy for final review and approval. This process is supposed to take a few weeks, and when it's done, our understanding is that it will be time to bring the girls home. So, it's possible that our Christmas presents will be the girls' presence with us at Christmas! We are all looking forward to that.

Thanks again for your partnership with us,

*Gene Jen Nate Andrew
(Carmelle & Néhémie)*

Praise God with us!

- For the safety we have enjoyed
- For progress on the girls' adoptions

Please pray with us

- Nate and Andrew have been sick most of the Fall and missed a lot of school. Their doctors haven't been able to pinpoint a cause for their ongoing illness.
- Preparations are moving ahead for Moody to offer aviation maintenance training in-house starting January. Still, huge needs remain: completion of the facility, obtaining necessary training equipment, obtaining approvals from the state of Washington and the Federal Aviation Administration, and bringing in two qualified instructors.

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