



Work, Rest and Sugar Cookies

September 2013

news from
Gene and Jen Arnold
serving with
Mission Aviation Fellowship
at **Moody Aviation**

Moody's fall semester begins in July. I know that strikes horror into the hearts of school children everywhere, but there's a good reason for it. Summers in eastern Washington are beautiful, with clear skies and great flying weather. Winters, on the other hand, are gray, icy things, and little good for flight training. So we work hard in the summer and rest a bit more in the winter.

Work and rest: there's a sense of rhythm in that. God has graciously built it into the world He's given us: day and night, weeks and months, seasons and years. And He, Himself, set the pattern of work and rest for us.

With the start of the fall semester, a couple of other instructors and I (Gene) taught a two-week ground school course to nine of our recent mission aviation graduates about how our students could become flight instructors themselves. Knowing that several of our students intend to take jobs in the near future as flight instructors, I thought it would be good to share some thoughts with them on the topics of work and rest as part of our daily classroom devotions.

Our thoughts were taken from a little booklet by Walt Hendrickson: *Why Go to Work?* There are nine points made by the author, but many of them come back to this foundational idea: **God is the One who accomplishes anything of value.** God commands us to work, and He allows us to participate in the building of

His Kingdom through our work, but He is the One who accomplishes His own purposes for His own glory. Therefore, the work is not dependent on us!

This is amazing and freeing. We participate in God's work, and we share in the joy of seeing lives transformed, but God is not dependent on us to accomplish His purposes. In contrast, imagine how horrible it would be if God were watching us with anxious attention, hoping we would pull it off, so that His plan would go through. Ridiculous—He is self-sufficient!

No, "*Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him,*" (Psalm 115:3 NIV). Recently my sister visited us. Looking for some quality time with our kids, she worked with them to make sugar cookies. Now, my sister knows her way around a kitchen, and needs no help with baking, but she had the kids help because she wanted their fellowship. They participated in mixing dough, and in shaping and decorating the cookies. They shared in the joy of pulling the finished wonders from the oven. Did my sister need their help? No, but they shared in the joy because they shared in the work.

In the same way, we work for the joy of the Lord, and we rest, knowing that He will accomplish His purposes, and all that He does is good.

*Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD. . . . Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. **The LORD does whatever pleases him**, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, through all generations. For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. Psalm 135:1,3,5,6,13-14 (NIV)*

The Work This summer I've been working with a couple of our recent graduates as they earn their "Certified Flight Instructor" rating. Once earned, this certificate gives them the privilege of teaching, but perhaps even more important, the process of earning the certificate forces them to review everything they've studied in our mission flight training program. It's been said that if you really want to learn

something, teach it, and that theory is working well for **Cale** and **Aaron**. Of course, it means a lot of fun for me, too, because I get to play the student, and present my "instructors" with all sorts of learning situations. ☺ Both of the guys hope to spend a couple of years interning as instructors for Moody before heading to the mission field.



Which one is the student?

The Rest It's been a good summer for our family. Jen joined with her sisters to put together a lovely 50th wedding anniversary celebration for her parents. Rose learned to ride a bicycle. Nate spent time with his friend, Sim. Rachele flew an airplane with me. Andrew got his tonsils out—and that's a good thing. He enjoyed the attention, and we hope it will bring him good health as he starts middle school.

The Big Ministry Support Gage This summer the needle held steady in the low 90's. Unfortunately, as we come into fall, some of our faithful, long-term ministry supporters have already said they need to discontinue because of changes in their circumstances. In addition, as costs for doing business and living continue to rise, MAF is finding it necessary to set new, higher, ministry support target levels. So, the short of it is that we've lost some ground, and are back in the yellow range. Praise God, this opens the way for you to participate in what He is doing through mission aviation! We know God will accomplish all He sets out to do, and that He will redeem those He has called. But, this is our chance to step up and get into the game. He invites us to participate in what He is doing, so that we may share in His joy when it is accomplished. Are you in? Don't be afraid that you can't do much. God will bless and use even \$25 or \$50 per month. Every bit makes a difference.

Send us a note, or visit www.maf.org/arnold to explore the ways you can give.

Thanks So Much for Your Partnership

Rejoicing in the All-Sufficient One,

Gene Jen
Nate Rose
Rachele Andrew



Praise God with Us!

- For the delights of summer: fun with family and friends
- We have seen this year how, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak," Isaiah 40:29 NIV.
- For God's working, which is not hindered by the wrath of the nations, nor needs our efforts to succeed

Pray with Us

- For the recent graduates that they may move into fruitful ministry
- That Gene would be effective in teaching new teachers
- For our girls as they learn to deal honestly with difficult things from their past, and as they face the demands and opportunities of their new future
- For Jen's daily health and strength as the routines of a school mom restart
- For our ministry support to reach 100%

Contact Us

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