

October 2006

Greetings from North Carolina! It's a cool, clear, sunny fall day here in Shelby; perfect weather for flying. Here's an update to tell you what we've been "up" to lately.

Bobby Burdett has earned his CFI (Certified Flight Instructor) rating! That means he can share the flight instruction duties with Steve Land and earn his flight hours more quickly. Both of our missionaries are also spending time working on airplanes and working on some much needed organizational details when they aren't flying.

There are so many needy people all around us... Please pray specifically as the daily ministry opportunities present themselves that we will always be ready and full of His Grace and Truth. There are so many unique opportunities that God has put before each one of us -- right here!

Since Compass Ministries began almost 2 years ago, we've had the privilege of coming into contact with a number of missionary aviation groups that God is using around the world. One such group is Mission Air Care, a church-planting and supporting ministry that serves unreached and remote areas of Alaska. For those of you who aren't very familiar with Alaska, it is an extremely aviation-dependent state. To quote their website, "There are no roads connecting the vast majority of villages peppering Alaska's 570,374 square miles. The only practical way to get the gospel into the villages by way of personal, one-on-one evangelism, is with an airplane." (To learn more about Mission Air Care, you can visit their website at www.missionaircare.org).

We have become aware that Mission Air Care is in desperate need of a larger airplane with de-icing capability -- they are looking for a PA-31 (Piper Navajo). Their current airplane, a Cessna 206, is not equipped for flight into icing conditions (and did we mention this is in Alaska?). In addition, its small size (it seats 6) has become a serious limiting factor, affecting how many people and supplies it can carry, and how far. This mission has had to postpone and even cancel numerous needed flights above the Arctic Circle because of the lack of a suitable airplane.

Well, we happen to have an airplane that would meet their needs -- a larger twin-engine Piper Navajo with de-icing capabilities -- which is impractical for our operation. We could, however, really use a Cessna 206! So we have been earnestly praying along with Mission Air Care that God will provide them the remainder of funds needed to buy the Navajo, using the 206 as a trade-in, if this is His will. In faith, we are finishing the Navajo's inspection, making repairs, and preparing it for flight. Needless to say, there are many details remaining and we would very much appreciate your prayers as well. We will keep you informed!

Stay tuned to hear "the rest of the story" and some exciting news about missionary aviation kids camps next time!

Some important info: If you do not wish to receive future e-mail updates, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will remove your address from the list. If for some reason, you are getting this e-mail and are not receiving the informative quarterly newsletters, let us know and we will be happy to see that you get those too -- electronically or snail-mail.

Blessings,

Compass Aviation Ministries