

Compass Aviation Ministries

Greetings From Shelby, NC!

Summer 2006

We pray our "end of summer" newsletter finds you blessed. Where do we begin . . . so much has been happening in the last few months. Much of it can be summed up in two words: "hellos" and "goodbyes."

Hello: In February we welcomed our second missionary candidate family, Bobby and Joanna Burdett. Bobby, a pilot and A&P (and hopefully CFI by the time you read this), is a graduate of Piedmont



Baptist College. Joanna, a midwife who also attended Piedmont, grew up on the mission field in Paraguay. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary in May.

Bobby and Joanna plan to spend approximately two years with us, while Bobby gains the experience he'll need for the mission field. Please pray for them as they seek God's leading as to where He would have them go and when to begin the deputation process. We are enjoying getting to know them and are thankful to have them on board.

Another hello: God sent us more blessings last winter in the form of much-needed full-time help in the maintenance shop: Steve Langston from South Carolina, and Mark Edmonds of Georgia. Steve is an A&P with many years of air cargo and airline experience. He worked with John for years at the Rutherford County airport; he also had a career working in Human Services with handicapped children before God called him to serve with Compass.



God dramatically led the Edmonds family here through a friend currently serving with MAF. Mark is an experienced A&P/ IA who has been actively pursuing mission aviation service since 1997. Please pray for him as he is assuming new responsibilities as president of Compass Aviation Ministries.

Both of these men have proven to be invaluable in the day-to-day running of the shop and in helping provide a solid learning environment for our candidates. We are very grateful to God for sending Steve and Mark and their families to work and grow with us.

Goodbye: A bittersweet milestone was reached in July when Mike and Kelly McGregor completed their training with Compass and embarked on the next step of their journey. Mike exceeded our hoped-for goal of 500 hours by almost double, finishing with a total of nearly 1000 flight hours plus valuable maintenance experience gained during his time with us. Mike and Kelly have moved on to Missouri for a year of special training with New Tribes Missions. The year will also be spent building support and making final plans for their overseas deployment. If the Lord wills, they

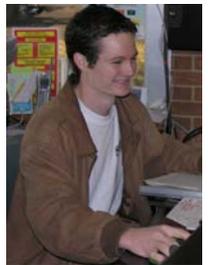
will be in Indonesia by the end of next year.

Hello again: Mike is being sorely missed, but God has already provided more missionary candidates to take up the yoke (pun intended). Steve and Andrea Land, with their one-year-old daughter Kirsten, joined us in August. Steve is a LeTourneau University graduate, and he and his family hail from Pennsylvania. They plan to spend approximately two years here preparing themselves for the mission field. They believe God is calling them to Kyrgyzstan



where Steve desires to use the technical skills and aviation training he has received to reach an unreached people with the good news of Jesus Christ. We are grateful God is allowing us to be a part of unfolding His plan for the Land family. Stay tuned for more on their incredible story of how God led them here.

Another goodbye: This August we also said a fond good-bye to Thomas Routh. Thomas has been an invaluable and dedicated part-time worker around the airport. He earned his private pilot's license under Mike's instruction, and graduated from high school this summer. He is now leaving us for LeTourneau University, to continue the training he started here; his goal is to become a missionary pilot! We plan to put him to work here when he comes home for school breaks, and we hope to see him back in a few years as one of our official candidates!



Every one of us could fill a newsletter with all that has been happening in our own lives. For now, though, we'll just include condensed updates on Devon, Paul and John:

Devon has grown busier as he takes on more responsibilities as FBO manager. He deserves much of the credit for changing the face — and reputation! — of our little airport. Visitors and customers alike are sure to be greeted with his encouraging smile and cheerful, efficient helpfulness. Devon recently met the FAA's requirements to become a certified computer testing administrator, which means that all



FAA written exams may now be taken in our facility. He is continuing to train for his private pilot's license and A&P.

All of us have been learning to praise God in the difficult times as well as in the easier ones. In His inscrutable wisdom, both Paul and

John were sidelined for much of July. To return to Paul's "washing machine" metaphor from our first newsletter, we believe we have been put through the wash cycle and are now enduring the spin cycle! God is cleansing and flushing away what doesn't belong, and the process is uncomfortable and dizzying. And sometimes it takes multiple washings to get it all out! (We won't even talk about tumble-drying — high heat? Low heat?)

Joni's father died in June, adding to what has been a difficult season for the Hounshell family. Thanks to all of you for your prayers for them; please see "A Note from Paul" below.

John was taken away from the airport for most of July while recovering from minor surgery in his lower back; he faced a painful, complicated and slow recovery. As only He can do, God used that time for His excellent purposes and brought about great good through it. As part of this great good, Mark was able to step into a new and much-needed role of leadership in the shop during this time. Steve, Bobby and Devon also rose to the occasion, changing and expanding their duties as the situation required. This is allowing John to follow God's leading with a greater role in the growing ministry. Stay tuned for upcoming mission project developments.

We thank all of you for your prayers and patience with our limited communications during that time. We'll close with some words of encouragement from Paul.

A Note from Paul: "I have learned so much having Mike and Kelly a part of my life and the life of Compass Aviation Ministries for the past 11 months. The commitment of these individuals to pursue aviation in a missionary setting is quite remarkable. Once a decision is made, it

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another... Rom. 13:8

takes literally years and countless dollars to be able to fly with a missionary aviation organization. It is easy for me to get bogged down in the daily financial and physical struggle of helping a team of dedicated people establish and build a ministry that can help these individuals achieve their God-given dreams. I am honored to be part of such a team.



"As Mike and Kelly have physically moved on, our commitment to pay their school debt remains with Compass Aviation Ministries' general fund. Currently, we are receiving about 12% of our budget through outside contributions. As I was interceding for this ministry, God took me to Psalm 1:2-3; 'But his delight is in the

law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither, And whatever he does shall prosper.'

"To Mike and Kelly, a tear and a quote: 'Keep believing; there are those who say it can't be done... that your dreams are too big and your hopes too high. They must not know the size of the God you serve.'"

We would like to keep you all better informed through email updates in between our newsletters. We plan to use these updates to introduce each of Compass' family members more thoroughly, to present changes or special prayer requests that may arise, and to further encourage you with what God is doing here. If you wish to receive our email updates, please send us your email address. You may also indicate if you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter via email. God bless you.



Praise Items

God's grace which is still sufficient for us . . .

The Land family was able to sell both their house and their car — so quickly as to be truly miraculous — in order to move here to Shelby.

John's recovery from surgery, which is almost complete!

Mike and Kelly are settling into their classes in Missouri.

The team God is bringing together and shaping here.

The work God is doing in and through each of us, every day.

Prayer Requests

That God would raise up intercessors to partner with us.

For God's continued financial provision so we can meet the needs of our candidates and help equip them for their preparation and field assignments.

For continued safety in our flight and maintenance operations.

For protection from the attacks of the enemy; for faith and endurance in the midst of attack.

For Holy Spirit-inspired unity and love among all of our team members.



Compass Aviation Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 307

Shelby, NC 28151

compassaviationministries@yahoo.com

(704) 487-1161

Contributions go directly to the general candidate support and training fund unless otherwise designated.