ACMA Graduate becomes ‘Flying Bibleman’

David Curtis completed the Diploma of Mission Aviation (Flight) course at ACMA in December 2010. The Bible Society has seen in David the mix of gifts and qualities required for the unique ministry of the person known as ‘The Flying Bibleman’, based in Darwin. We rejoice with them that ACMA has been able to be involved in the training and equipping of David for this strategic ministry.

It’s been a long apprenticeship, but looking back it is easy to see how the Lord has prepared David and his family for this task. His apprenticeship has included:
• ministry studies at Bible College of Victoria
• extensive experience living in remote areas of Australia, including Alice Springs, Warburton and Kalgoorlie WA, and Thursday Island QLD
• years of working with indigenous brothers and sisters
• flight training at ACMA

The ministry of the Flying Bibleman commenced in 1968 as an itinerant ministry that would take the Word of God to remote places in Western Australia. Initially, an aircraft was hired and departed from Perth to share the Word of God with people in the remote communities and cattle stations in the north and east of the state. The core of the ministry remains the same today – to make the Bible available to people in a language they understand, a format they can use, and at a price they can afford.

David’s parish can only be described as HUGE – from Broome in the west, throughout all of the Northern Territory, the northern communities of South Australia, Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait. That is an area of over 3 million square kilometres or 40% of Australia’s land mass. There are literally hundreds of small communities dotted throughout that area; many are difficult to reach by road, or even unreachable by motor vehicle in the wet season.

But what a great ministry! David will be called upon to preach, teach the Bible, teach Religious Instruction in schools, counsel people, show Christian films or just sit and encourage people to live for Jesus.

ACMA is delighted to join hands with the Bible Society in ‘Giving Wings To God’s Work’.

Tragedies & Trust

The recent tragic natural disasters which have impacted so many of us in Australia remind us starkly that, despite what we might like to think, we are not entirely in control. We live in a fallen world, and creation continues to groan.

It is a great comfort for those of us who belong to the Lord to read His Word and affirm with the Psalmist (PS. 31: 14-15): As for me, I trust in You O Lord. I say – ‘You are my God. My times are in Your hand’.

At the end of the day, all we can do is be obedient to the call which God has placed upon our lives, knowing that He is our help and our shield.

ACMA’s call is to train the men and women God calls to be mission pilots and engineers. We don’t control every aspect of that call... We face huge challenges in 2011 – strategic, logistical, financial, and bureaucratic. But of this we are certain – God has called us, and this is His work.

Thankyou for enabling us, through your prayers and support, to be obedient to His call.

Bruce Searle
CEO ACMA
Construction Commences for New Hangar

Construction of the new federally funded TEC (Trade Education Christian) College hangar on the ACMA site at Coldstream Airfield began on Australia Day with the excavator coming on site to prepare the ground for the concrete slab. The concrete was poured early in February and the hangar will have arrived by the time you read this. It is hoped that the construction will be finished by the end of March.

We have 9 aircraft engineering students enrolled this first year in the VET program for Year 10-12 students, and this has exceeded our expectations. The students commenced on February 15, Interestingly, 3 of these students have previously participated in the mid year ACMA camp.

Mobile Mission Maintenance is assisting us with the construction of the hangar and a classroom and office within the hangar.

We praise the Lord for the ministry of MMM!

Please pray:

- For the workers that are on site, for their safety and an easy construction process.
- For the students, that through their time at ACMA they too may desire to serve the Lord through Mission Aviation.
- That we can make the program enjoyable and encouraging – even life changing – for all that attend.

INTERVIEWS with Staff...

Andrew Little
(Flight Instructor)

Q. Where did you grow up?
A. I grew up in Blackburn and have one brother. Visiting my grandparents in Tasmania every year was very special for me.

Q. What adventures have you had?
A. I have had many adventures in the air teaching new students to fly.

Q. What are your interests?
A. Aviation, reading, playing bass guitar.

Q. Where have you travelled?
A. Tasmania every year and Canada in Year 7.

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Dark chocolate, Steak, Apple crumble and yoghurt ice cream.

Q. What’s up ahead for you and your wife Myf and baby Theodore?
A. We will be working in Papua New Guinea next year with MAF.

Q. What good advice do you live by?
A. Laying a good foundation with God first and following His lead.

Luke Teale-Sinclair
(ACMA Engineering Student)

Q. Where did you grow up?
A. I spent 11 years in Papua New Guinea. My father was a MAF pilot and is now Regional Director of MAF in NSW.

Q. Tell us about one of your adventures in PNG.
A. Whilst helping to build an air strip in the Sepik area the tractor that I was driving sunk into the soft fill at a 45 degree angle which was quite a challenge to retrieve.

Q. What are your interests?
A. I am busy studying engineering but I enjoy abselling and teaching at kids camps and seeing the positive change in them.

Q. How many in your family?
A. I have 3 sisters, 1 younger and 2 older and my parents live in Sydney.

Q. Where have you travelled?
A. I have visited Jamaica, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. I really liked Cuba and the older style cars they drive.

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Pizza

Q. What is in the future for you?
A. After I complete my year at Bible College, I want to join MAF and work in PNG as an aircraft engineer.

Q. What is some good advice that you live by?
A. Persevere. Don’t give up on your goals.
Preventing to Serve in Mission Aviation

Just recently my good wife dragged me off to the Physio. Now I’m not much of a fan of physios. My wife came with me because she knows what I’m like, and she cares.

To explain the situation it’s a bit like this. If I went to a physio by myself it would be a bit like a dog going to the vet without its owner. The vet can ask the nice doggy with the goofy grin lots of questions but there can be a lot of confusion and time wasted so it’s always easier for the dog’s owner to be there to explain to the vet what is actually going on.

Anyway, this nice physio asked lots of questions, did some stuff to my back, taught me some exercises and strapped my back, to remind me not to bend over for a few days. I was standing a lot straighter than when I had walked in, so the nice physio must have done something.

The consultation ended, and the physio was quite adamant that in my lame condition I wasn’t to put my socks and boots back on by myself. Now, I had been able to put my boots on that morning, and I had taken them off for the consultation. But now I couldn’t put them on! It was a bit confusing for me. I think I produced my goofy grin again.

This nice lady physio then said that she would put my old smelly socks and boots on! The whole concept appalled me. I was a bit embarrassed.

On reflection, it wasn’t really embarrassment, so much, but pride. I felt that only toddlers and invalids have to have their shoes and socks put on for them. Not me! Not a (sort of) fit bloke in his mid thirties! That sort of thing just doesn’t happen, I wasn’t going to humble myself to a level whereby I couldn’t take care of myself.

The humiliation was two-fold. Not only was I too much of an invalid to put my own boots on, but the person offering to do so was a nice looking lady, highly educated, and earns a lot of money. Surely there was somebody else, but my wife wasn’t available... so there wasn’t. In the end this lady put them on. My humiliation was complete.

So why did I have to be humiliated?

The answer for this can be simple. In broad terms, these things happen. You hurt yourself, you can’t look after yourself and (hopefully) there are people who help you out. Or people are paid the big bucks to care for you and you hopefully get better.

The deeper answer could be that I needed a good dose of humility.

In John 13:1-16 the author of this gospel talks about Jesus, the son of God, washing the feet of the disciples to set an example of humility. Following are some of my thoughts on this passage.

1. Our humility in relation to the world
The world, which includes our work mates, neighbours and family, expects us as Christians to be humble. Even if the path of Christianity isn’t for them, they expect the Christians around them to mirror their Savior, Jesus, and to be humble.

2. Our humility in relation to what we do
Jesus showed us by example, so therefore we must be able to undertake our roles as husbands, fathers, Church leaders and, for myself in my former role as a Police Officer, and now as a student pilot, not with an attitude of elitism or arrogance, but with the attitude of a servant. How can I (or we) possibly take up leadership roles if we’re not prepared to humble ourselves and properly serve those around us?

3. Our humility in relation to the cross
It all comes to a point and that point is at the foot of the cross. It all ends at the foot of the cross.

If we have a low self-esteem, are a bit depressed or down on ourselves, it ends at the foot of the cross. Jesus loved us so much that he died for our low opinion of ourselves so that we may live through him.

And in contrast, when we’re suffering from arrogance and a lack of humility, it ends at the foot of the cross. Christ loved us so much that He died and paid the penalty for our arrogance and pride on that cross. It all ends at the foot of the cross.

So to apply that, I’m going to try and think that my purpose in doing whatever I do isn’t to serve myself or to gain something for myself, but to serve others as Christ did. So for me there is nothing wrong with becoming ill and having the Governor General put my smelly boots back on, or for me to put the Governor’s shoes on. If that is what God wants then that is what’s going to happen. There is nothing wrong with having high levels of responsibility like a Police Officer or a Pilot in Command. All these things are fine as long as they are done with a humble attitude of serving others. Seek humility, this means living by the example set by Jesus. With a humble attitude God receives the ultimate glory which is rightfully His.
Praise Points

Praise the Lord with us for:
• our new Engineering and Flight students, and for the new ACMA students completing their Bible/Mission training at MST (Melbourne School of Theology, previously Bible College of Victoria)
• commencement of the new TEC College hangar construction and training program
• additional capacity in the maintenance workshop with Steve Parker’s presence. Steve is an ACMA graduate serving in PNG with SIL Aviation, and is currently on home assignment.
• the provision of the new CTMC flight training aircraft expected to arrive in March.

Prayer Points

Please pray:
• for the immigration applications presently in process for (1) Neal & Lois Semanision (AvServe – another 12 month tourist visa) and (2) Hans & Elke Kummer (Helimission – Permanent Residency)
• for a way to be found for ACMA to gain tax deductible status from the ATO (the previous tax deductible status was available under the umbrella of BCV, and lost in the process of ACMA becoming autonomous from BCV/MST)
• for ACMA’s significant financial load in the autonomy process, as well as the heavily increased administrative load
• for additional volunteer staff required (See insert).

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter...

Please post this slip to Jennifer Barton, Australian Centre for Mission Aviation, PO Box 223 Coldstream, VIC 3770 or email jennifer@acma.vic.edu.au

I do not wish to receive the ACMA Praise and Prayer Update

Name: ............................................................
Address: ........................................................
...................................... Postcode ................

For more information on:
• How you can be a partner with us in the Mission Aviation Course
• How you can support Mission Aviation Training through bequests
• How you can support those training for Mission Aviation...
  Contact Jennifer Barton
  Ph:   (03) 9739 0612
  Email: jennifer@acma.vic.edu.au
• How you can train for Mission Aviation...
  Contact Delyse Searle
  Ph:   (03) 9739 0612
  Email: delyse@acma.vic.edu.au

www.acma.vic.edu.au
Please pray for these students...

Stephen Brown
Flight
Gosford, NSW

Mike Deakin
Flight (MST)
Sydney, NSW
Wife: Yoko
Children: Joshua (5), Jack (2)

Darko Deroko
Flight
Melbourne, Vic

Joel Jaatinen
Flight (MST)
Finland
Wife: Maija

Harry Jang
Flight (MST)
Korea
Wife: Jeanah
Children: Sarah (7), Sally (5)

Steve Menadue
Flight
Murray Bridge, SA
Wife: Sarah
Children: Emilie (6), Benjamin (2)

Rhys Morrell
Flight/Engineering
Horsham, Vic
Wife: Angela

Matt Roediger
Flight
Ringwood, Vic
Wife: Shannon
Children: Annaliese (3 months)

Tony Soo
Flight (MST)
Singapore

Michael Tinley
Flight (MST)
Albany, WA
Wife: Ruth
Children: Benjamin (9), Charlotte (7), Jacob (5), Oliver (3), Harrison (1)

Francis Wayambo
Engineering
PNG
Wife: Helen
Children: Jonathan (6), Nori (3)

If you would like to support the training of these students, the ACMA Student Subsidy Fund will assist in subsidising their course costs.

If you can help please contact Jennifer Barton, Ph: (03) 9739 0612
Email: jennifer@acma.vic.edu.au