

Martinez Mail -The Pilot Version

February 2011



Can a Bible school fly?



You bet it can! Mornings are cold at the Mercy Wings mission base in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. My fingers are stiff as I handle, inspect, and probe critical systems of today's mission aircraft. Weather at the destination is always a concern. Two 10,000 foot volcanic mountain ridges will be crossed and visibility conditions will vary wildly from one valley to the next.

By way of preparation, I consider how to load today's precious cargo for a safe arrival; ensuring that aircraft balance is maintained and maximum weight of the aircraft is not exceeded. When all is right, the aircraft is checked over once and again just prior to departing. Prayer is on the check-list, just before takeoff.

This morning, two Bible teachers are set to go to Chajul (sha-who-L), where they will carry out on-going discipleship training for 30 new believers. The nearest airstrip is at the village of Nebaj (ne-bah). Chajul is 20Km farther or, 1.5 hours by foot and "chicken bus". Using aircraft, Bible teachers arrive fresh, spending less time traveling and more precious time ministering the Word of God.



Walter and Abraham will still need to cover another 20 Km by foot and chicken bus.



An early arrival shows the people starting another day of survival.

Nebaj is not very far from the mission base, about 40NM or (25 minutes), as the crow flies. Driving to the same destination is 10 hours, or more, if road conditions are bad. Here in Guatemala, distance between points is measured in hours vice miles.

Another way aircraft is used to speed the Gospel to the people.

Many ways to be a blessing and a comfort

A local doctor contacted Mercy Wings with a humble request on behalf of a young patient. Miguel Chavez, a fourteen year old with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) had a dream. I met Miguel's parents; they related that from a very young age he had always been fascinated by flight. And, how he wished and hoped that one day he might get to ride in an airplane.



On the "big day" Miguel arrived in an ambulance, attended by a medic, and doctor. Wheelchair bound, we lifted him into the aircraft, settling him in with his required equipment. From the time he first saw the aircraft, a wide grin appeared on his face. In short order we were airborne; I would peek behind me occasionally to see how he was doing, and the smile never left his face.

After the flight, I took the opportunity

to pray over Miguel asking him if he knew about Jesus. He did not have the ability to respond, however, I believe he understood the Gospel and will be received into the Kingdom. As a foot note to this story, ten days later Miguel was called home to be with the Lord. One must always remain open to ministry as you find it, or rather, as it finds you.



Do you really want to be involved?

Fifteen years ago, Robin and I started in missions, with only a desire in our hearts to serve Gods' people. Your faithful encouragement, prayer, and giving, over the years, has placed needed skills and resources into our hands. Every soul saved is as though you were here yourself. We challenge you to press in even deeper and continue to help extend our reach to the people.

Robin and I will be in the U.S. during the month of April. We look forward to re-connecting with as many of you, our beloved supporters as possible.

Visit our family missionary web www.sgsp-aviation.org for praises, prayer requests, and physical needs.

Chuck & Robin Martinez

Your missionaries in Guatemala, serving with Living Water Teaching and Mercy Wings International.