



MidWest Missionair Year End Report and Christmas Message December 20, 2009

2009 has been a year of great change for all of us but it has also been a year of moving forward for MidWest Missionair.

Many of us have experienced extreme economic upheaval and have been forced to look to Our Lord for our very survival. I see this as a good thing which has caused me (and I hope many of you) to grow in dependance on His provision.

The pressures of today have made it difficult at times to get alone with God. But these times with Him are essential to our very existence.

I have been reading a daily devotional “Jesus Calling” by Sarah Young. She shares with us things that Jesus has given her during times of waiting and distress. If nothing else, I have discovered this year that God is in control and that He can be relied upon to take care of issues that are beyond me. But learning not to “fix everything myself” has been hard.

The reading for December 16 brought into focus a lesson that I have been learning all year. I quote directly from the text. Jesus is speaking to us:

“I AM SPEAKING in the depths of your being. Be still, so that you can hear My voice. I speak in the language of love; My words fill you with Life and Peace, Joy and Hope. I desire to talk with all My children, but many are too busy to listen. The “work ethic” has them tied up in knots. They submit wholeheartedly to this task master, wondering why they feel so distant from Me.

Living close to Me requires making Me your *First Love* – your highest priority. As you seek My Presence above all else, you experience Peace and Joy in full measure. I also am blessed when you make Me first in your life. While you journey through life in My Presence, *My Glory brightens the world around you.*”

Isaiah 50:4; Revelations 2:4; Isaiah 60:2

I keep a “to do” list of things “I must do”. The list included personal items, business items and MidWest Missionair items. Several months ago my “to do” list had grown so long that I could not hope to get through it all but the “work ethic” would not allow me to drop even a single item. They were all good or beneficial things that “I ought to do”.

Then God reminded me that He “will meet all (my) needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Well, if he can meet all my needs, and if I can't do all the stuff that I “ought to do”, and if those things really need to be done, can I not rely on Him to do the really important ones that I can't get to. And can't I also rely on Him so sort out the one's that really aren't that important.

I forced myself to get in the closet and prayerfully consider the list.

Business items were considered first. A number of activities were dropped or left for others to take care of.

On the personal level I dropped many items.

For MidWest Missionair there were three biggies:

1. Plan and do a fall fund raising banquet.
2. Write a newsletter with lots of pictures showing progress on the painting.
3. Finish painting the airplane.

Missionair has a number of year end expenses including taxes, insurances, licenses renewals and this year we have a big hangar heating bill because of the ongoing painting. We have always relied on items 1 and 2 to meet year end needs.

I concluded that providing air transportation for His work is really what we are all about, and that if the aircraft was not finished there was little reason for MidWest Missionair to exist. With much apprehension I proceeded to concentrate on Item 3 and dropped Items 1 and 2 trusting God to provide for the year end bills.

And the result:

Painting – moving along.

1. All 101 removable parts are painted and in storage.
2. The left wing is painted white.
3. The vertical stabilizer is painted white.

Painting this aircraft is roughly equivalent to painting 10 small automobiles. To date we have painted 6 of them.

Volunteer Support – growing rapidly in the Garnett area.

1. The use of another hangar at Garnett Airport has been donated to store our completed Aztec parts and our Cessna 172 while the Aztec fuselage is being painted in the main hangar.
2. Several Anderson County newspapers have done feature articles on MidWest Missionair and community support is growing.
3. Several area churches have come forward to offer help in such things as cleaning the hangar prior to painting and constructing a paint booth.

Financially – He is meeting our needs

1. In spite of no banquet and no year end letter our year end giving has exceeded previous years significantly!
2. All bills are paid!!
3. We should have enough reserve to carry us at least through the painting project.

Challenges still lie ahead. We need ongoing prayer.

At the moment this is our single biggest challenge. In order to wash, etch, corrosion treat, prime, and finish coat, we need a three consecutive day window every time we paint a section of the fuselage. This is very difficult to achieve while operating our electrical contracting business. Please pray that God will provide these times and will help us recognize them when they occur (sometimes unexpectedly and with little advanced notice).

When we dropped the fall banquet we had in the backs of our minds to have an open house and prayer time at Garnett when the completely painted aircraft is rolled out. Please pray about how, when and if this should be done.

We are beginning to see the end of a long long tunnel. Pray that God will show us the mission for this Aztec when it is completed.

Merry Christmas to you all!! May you continue to grow in His Grace in 2010!!

Yours In Christ,

Gordon Blackie