There’s a friendship forged by the shared fascination of all things with wheels and engines. Josh Snader and Bryan Martin can’t really remember a time when they were not friends. Like many boys, they collected, shared, and smashed Matchbox cars. As they grew, so did their toys, and they each bought a Yamaha Seca II motorcycle. Swapping parts between the two, they were able to keep one running and street legal. In 2008, adventure called, and they loaded a few friends and their luggage into Josh’s 1996 Saturn SL1 (lacking both a muffler and air conditioning) and set off on a summer tour, collecting souvenirs and stories while they explored the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

Bryan was the first to catch a vision for missionary aviation. He attended a missions fair at the airport in Smoketown, Pennsylvania. MMS Aviation was there, and Bryan heard about a place where he could get his hands dirty in real-life ministry as an apprentice aircraft mechanic. He shared his excitement with his friend.

Today, Josh and Bryan continue their grand adventure together, serving as apprentice mechanics at MMS Aviation. Josh plans to be a maintenance specialist, and Bryan will complete flight training through the MMS Aviation/Missionary Air Group training partnership.

These friends keep us laughing in the hangar, and we look forward to watching what God does through their lives over the next years. Pray for them and their families as they consider where they will serve when their apprenticeships are complete. And be encouraged; may your friendships inspire you and others to take what you love and use it for the glory of God!
Bryan and Maria Martin Begin Service

The Martin family is from Newmanstown, Pennsylvania, where Bryan worked in a metal fabrication shop. Bryan and Maria have both been involved in foreign missions and, after being married, were active in a local mission as youth leaders. They have quickly acclimated to MMS life, serving in many ways. Bryan plans to complete his maintenance apprenticeship and pursue flight training with Missionary Air Group.

The team of students is pictured with MMS staff—LeTourneau graduates, Dwight Jarboe ('68) and Jim Newman ('94)

LeTourneau University Team Visits

MMS hosted four students and a staff sponsor from LeTourneau in March. The students chose to spend their spring break serving and we are grateful! These young men contributed to our efforts and learned about missionary aviation in the process.

MAF-Kenya Sends Mechanic for Training

Vincent Muchiri Murugi, a mechanic serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Nairobi, Kenya, came to MMS in January to complete his training and prepare for the FAA Airframe and Powerplant Exams. During his time here, he worked closely with Bob Schwartz, MMS Aviation’s Director of Training. MMS has served many organizations in this way by finishing the training and testing of international mechanics.

Bryan and Maria, with children Freddie and Aria

Bob Schwartz explains electrical systems to Vincent and Bryan
Missionary Air Group Cessna 206
With a generous donor funding the completion of this project, a new engine and propeller have been purchased. Dale Coates, Chuck Egbert, Jim Newman, and Stephen Crothers are in the process of installing the engine and reassembling the aircraft. Stephen Crothers will soon be serving in Honduras where he will fly and maintain this airplane!

Bearhawk Kit Plane
The airplane has been completely recovered with new fabric and the repaired engine is installed. Jenny Haver is supervising the final assembly and rigging, with the assistance of Chris Jutte, and apprentices Josh Snader and Bryan Martin.

Maule for Ministry in Haiti
This aircraft was recently purchased by a missionary who serves the remote areas of Haiti, in support of a mission hospital. Tim Obarow is performing an annual inspection and will also be making repairs and small modifications.

Piper Aztec
Josh Adelsberger has overhauled the left engine of this airplane, while Mike Dunkley and Jim Newman are installing a digital engine monitoring system. This airplane is used for ministry in the United States.

Parts Room
After organizing the MMS tool crib, Glen Evert has moved to the parts room and will be coordinating procurement of both stock and special order items. A few years ago, we implemented a barcode system for signing out parts. Glen will be building on this to further improve our efficiency, and will also be working on the hangar floor to assist with aircraft projects.

Rapid Response Trips
Dale Coates and Chris Jutte traveled to Harvest Aviation in Wauchula, Florida, to assist with heavy maintenance on their Piper Navajo landing gear. Harvest Aviation is a lifeline for missionaries serving around the Caribbean.

Gospel Carrier International's King Air 200
MMS Aviation continues to serve GCI by performing regular maintenance on the aircraft used to reach Chinese nationals living in the United States. This work consists of annual inspections, troubleshooting and repair, and modifications.
Can we talk about numbers? I celebrated my 48th birthday last month. I think I might be approaching middle age. Should I be insulted when I'm offered the "senior discount?" That is happening now with some regularity. I don’t mind the discount (they give it to me even when I protest,) and I'm thankful to be standing at a point where I can look back at what God has done through the last 48 years, and dream of what could happen in the next 48.

MMS Aviation is at a similar point. We've been here for 45 years, preparing people and planes for worldwide missionary service. Since 1975 eighty-three apprentice mechanics have completed their training at MMS and gone on to serve with a Christian mission, taking the gospel to people who have never heard the name of Jesus. In that same time, we have served more than 110 mission organizations in our facilities, performing more than 600 major repairs and modifications. 176 Rapid Response teams have been sent to meet emergency maintenance needs of missionary flight programs around the world.

As of today, MMS has:
- Fourteen full-time staff
- Three apprentices and one mechanic building experience,
- Three apprentice pilots at Missionary Air Group in Burlington, NC,
- Six families raising support to serve at MMS
- Several families and individuals in the application process for service

Looking backward we celebrate; looking forward we hope, plan, and trust! As long as the Lord has use of this ministry, we will continue to serve him, trusting that he will provide everything we need to do this work.

Please pray with us, asking the Lord to add apprentices to train and aircraft to maintain! And in the end, may we be counted worthy of being called "faithful servants."

For His glory,

Phil Maddux,
President & CEO