



Missionary Air Group

Help and Hope by Air

September 2020 Ministry Update

“International Missions in the Era of COVID-19”

By Sean Donnelly

[Burlington, North Carolina]

■ The year 2020 has been full of unexpected and even unprecedented challenges for everyone— for families, businesses, governments, churches, and ministries alike! The impact on MAG ministry operations and planning was widespread, as expected, with programs and personnel spread around several countries. Also as expected, God remains FAITHFUL in keeping everyone safe, financially supported, and able to continue in fruitful ministry despite government obstacles and closed borders!

With all of our plans for 2020 mission teams and the construction of our new Central Honduras mission base on hold indefinitely, we had to prayerfully re-focus our priorities for this year and our strategy for moving forward with deployment of MAG’s new Honduras missionary staff that has been literally YEARS in the making. So, just like Joshua and the Israelites in the **Book of Joshua, Chapter 3**, God has turned OUR focus to PREPARATION and PATIENCE.

Israel had been travelling for 40 years. They were finally SO CLOSE to their destination they could see it. And yet, God had them in a time of WAITING for final instructions regarding their “deployment” into the new land. First, (verses 3-4) they are told to keep their eyes **“on the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God”** —and, only when IT moved, were THEY to **“move out from your positions and follow it.”** (I love the next verse.) **“Then you will know which way to go since you have never been this way before.”** And so, to be ready for this movement, Joshua tells the people (verse 5) **“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”**

There’s our formula: **1.**Keep our eyes on God, on His presence, and on His promises. **2.**Pay attention to only move when we see Him move. **3.**Let Him guide us along this new way into this new territory. **4.**Purify and prepare (consecrate) ourselves so we’re ready and entirely at God’s disposal, available to Him for His specific purposes. **5.**Expect God to do AMAZING things when He says GO!

So 2020 has become a year of “consecration” for MAG’s aircraft and missionaries that will ensure that we’re ready when God says GO!



After a two year refurbishment, MAG’s aircraft slated for Honduras (N383MG) is ready for flight after being prayed over dedicated to God’s service, at MMS Aviation in Coshocton, Ohio in August 2020.

From late January to late February, COVID-19 appeared on the scene and exploded from a foreign news story into a global pandemic. Within a month, all international borders were effectively closed and all our teams and construction plans were cancelled. This also left MAG with one family stranded in Honduras, and another stranded in Austria.

In March, MMS Aviation shutdown and MAG followed suit in the US through April and May. Great questions loomed about whether our individual supporters, now out of work, or our church supporters, now closed, would be able to continue. When would re-opening be possible? When could teams travel? When could pre-deployment training happen when none of our missionaries could even get here? How could flight training resume safely?

By June, thankfully, we were able to reopen with COVID hygiene protocols in place for the aircraft and training department. MMS was back at work finishing our Honduras airplane, and God has blessed us and our supporters and churches with no significant drop in support levels.

By August, we were able to take delivery of our completely overhauled aircraft (N383MG) from our partners at MMS Aviation, pictured top right, and begin a months long break-in process. Perhaps the greater challenge was now that of gathering our team. The Hoblit family was finally able to make it back from Honduras. The Crothers family made it to us after driving 10,000 miles around the US raising support. The Hochenburger family had the longest trip, having to journey from Austria to Croatia to quarantine outside the EU before traveling through Turkey to get to New York, then on to Burlington. Wow! Honestly, we never knew how, or whether, they would all get here. All we could do was sit and marvel as God brought it all about!

These three special families will participate in their final months of advanced flight and maintenance training, teambuilding, medical training, and cross cultural, interpersonal, and spiritual preparation before scheduled deployment in January 2021. This is the culmination of a nearly 10 year process for most of these families. Preparations are underway at our Rus Rus Base to receive them and for the aircraft to follow as soon as possible, allowing "Help and Hope by Air" to again flow to the people of Honduras in this strange new era of Covid-19. ■



(Above) The MAG fleet on display at MMS Aviation in Ohio pictured with some of the dozens of hands that contributed thousands of hours of work to prepare these airplanes for the Lord's service. (Below) MAG's new Honduras team in "Pilot Standardization" class at Burlington Headquarters. .



MAG is a Christian organization utilizing aircraft to deliver medical care and to support humanitarian, relief, and ministry operations in poor and remote areas. Contact us about how to be part of delivering "Help and Hope by Air"

Missionary Air Group, Inc. was incorporated in 1984 and is designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charity.

PO Box 5160 Burlington, NC 27216 USA

(336) 792-5200

www.flyMAG.org