

GROUND CREW



A Good Start

An old Chinese proverb says,
"A journey of a thousand
miles begins with a single step."

A 30-month aircraft maintenance apprenticeship may, or may not, seem like a journey of a thousand miles, but the first step is important in several ways. Obviously, the journey doesn't begin until that step is taken. However, at MMS Aviation, the quality of the first step is vital.

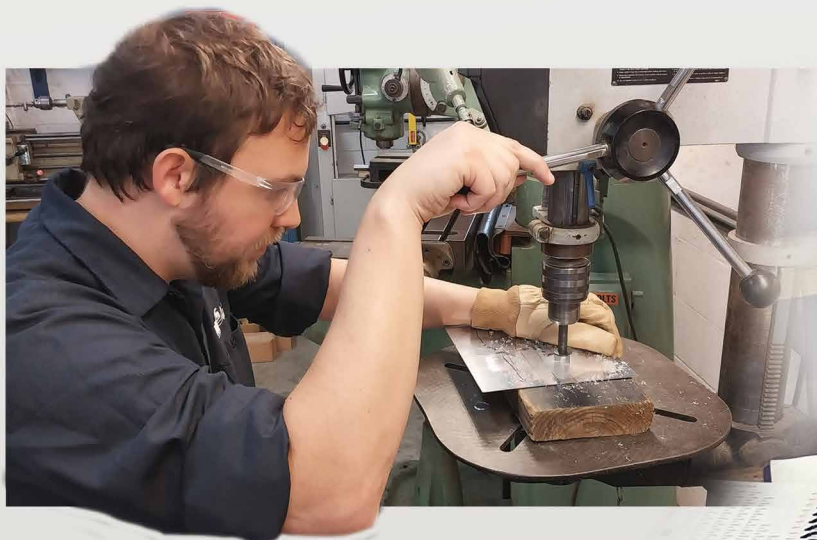
Those who come to MMS for training have varying levels of mechanical experience. Some

have come with years of automotive or trucking maintenance. Others begin with minimal maintenance experience and an aptitude and desire to learn. To address these differences and to standardize maintenance procedures, apprentices and trainees complete a basic training course in their first weeks of service at MMS.

This basic training includes shop safety and procedures, proper use of hand tools and shop equipment, and an introduction to standard aircraft hardware. In this initial phase of training, apprentices make sheet metal projects to learn riveting and fabrication techniques. Electrical systems, fluid lines and fittings, and aircraft specific welding are also taught. When basic training is complete, hands-on learning begins on aircraft brought to MMS for maintenance, repair, or overhaul.

Andrew calculates
dimensions for bends
in a sheet metal
project.

Chuck discusses aircraft
hardware with Joshua.



Andrew works on a spark plug holder.



Preparing people and planes for worldwide missionary service.



The Johnsons Begin Serving at MMS

Andrew and Rebecca Johnson are Midwesterners; he is from Nebraska, and she comes from Kansas. Andrew, an FAA certificated mechanic, is at MMS to gain mission aviation-specific experience. After a time serving with MMS, he will maintain aircraft as he and Rebecca will be part of a church planting team in West Africa.



Joshua Johnson Begins Apprenticeship

Joshua is from Mansfield, OH, just an hour and a half up the road from Coshocton. He is a Cedarville University graduate with a degree in Business Management. Joshua plans to serve in the missionary aviation community as a maintenance specialist.



Sharee and Rebekah work together in the PMA Queen Air.

Global Response to Palau

The airplanes of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA) spread the Gospel to such remote islands as Yap, Palau, and other parts of Micronesia, as well as the Philippines. Several PMA aircraft were due upgrades and repair of their aviation electronics, so MMS' Avionics Department responded with two Global Response trips to Palau. Although it has happened before, it is unusual to send two teams out back-to-back to accomplish a maintenance event, or, in this case, several maintenance events.

In late April, Jim Newman and Dale Liff traveled to Palau to install new avionics in the PMA Cessna 206 aircraft. It was to be five weeks of work, but Typhoon Mawar hit Guam, closing the airport there and delaying Jim and Dale's ability to return home on schedule. They continued working for two more weeks, which gave the second MMS team a head start on their work. In late June, Tyler and Sharee Sensenig accompanied staff member Rebekah Martel to accomplish the second phase of the work.

New radios and instrument systems were installed, most of which required new instrument panels to be fabricated and installed. It was not "all work and no play," as the teams were able to enjoy the beauty of the islands. The second team also helped construct a tree house for a children's ministry on a nearby island.

Working long hours to see airplanes equipped for further effective service has its reward and brings joy. However, building relationships with ministry partners and local people greatly multiplies the joy of serving.



Dale builds wire harnesses.

HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

A bit of what's happened recently

MARC Apache

Jim Newman, Dale Liff, and Rebekah Martel have been installing a new instrument panel with many new components. The work is nearly done, and it will soon be returning to service in Alaska.

GCI Malibu Annual

The Malibu is used for evangelism and discipleship among Chinese immigrants to the U.S. In addition to the major repairs accomplished on ministry aircraft, annual inspections at MMS provide an opportunity for those in training to experience routine maintenance. Kyle Wagner directed the project with assistance from supervisors Chris Jutte and Jack Harper, and trainee Austin Cleator.

Cessna 182

The airplane is being prepared for use in the Philippines, after having flown for many years in Papua New Guinea. Years of exposure to saltwater have caused significant airframe corrosion. This major project involves several of our staff and apprentices. Dale Coates is leading, with assistance from supervisors Jenny Haver, Chuck Egbert, Jay Shearer, and Bob Schwartz. Apprentices Matt Woods, Matt Carter, and Ben Winsley are gaining deep experience in sheet metal work and structural repair. That experience provides a depth of understanding they can use when they finish training at MMS and find a place of service on the mission field.

Engine Shop

Josh Adelsberger has completed cylinder overhauls for an engine used in Niger, and two complete engine overhauls. One is a Continental IO470, which will operate in Mexico, and the other is a Continental O470, to be installed on the Cessna 182 bound for the Philippines. Each apprentice at MMS spends a few months working with Josh.

Building Projects

The new avionics lab and records storage room are completed and will soon be furnished for use. Building maintenance manager Bob Campbell has led the work with many skilled volunteers. These projects and others are making room for the many aircraft projects and people that God is sending our way.

Safety and I.T.

Dave Shelly maintains our computer systems and directs our safety program. Most of our technical data is now online, so it is critical that our network is dependable. He has also been revamping our records of Safety Data Sheets, which provide important information for the proper use of chemicals and associated safety measures.



Jim Newman works below the instrument panel of the Apache.



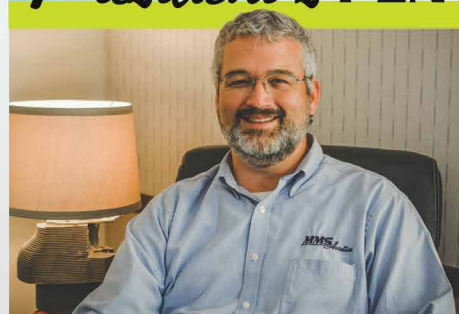
Ben and Chuck (hiding below) team-rivet a shiny new skin onto the 182 wing.



Matt installs a doubler to repair the 182 wing's auxiliary spar.

Dave works behind the scenes to keep the data flowing!

Great friendships are formed when people work with one another. Straining and pulling together to accomplish a difficult task builds bonds and memories that remain long after the work is done. This is true for organizations as well. In 2014, Mercy Air contacted MMS to inquire about using hangar space for a major inspection on their Airbus AS350B2 helicopter. We gladly offered them what spare room we had, and they came with their team to begin the project. Their Swiss team led the work, which lasted several months, and MMS personnel stepped in where we could. A few years later, their second helicopter came for the same reason, and now the third one sits in our hangar C, where our teams are working together to prepare this helicopter for use in Eswatini, Africa. There it will



provide medical assistance and relief to people who desperately need to know the true peace that only Jesus provides. For many of those people, the first time they hear the precious name of Jesus will be from the lips of a nurse, teacher, or pilot who came to them in the orange Airbus helicopter.

On the other side of hangar C sits a Pilatus Porter that belongs to Adonai International Ministries. They also asked if MMS could spare an area for them to prepare their own airplane for use in Guatemala among the Mayans. We made room, and they began to work. Just as with the helicopter, MMS staff have helped wherever we could. When completed, this airplane will be a lifeline of hope for people who are responding to the message of the gospel.

Although we are not directly responsible for either of these projects, MMS is blessed to work alongside both mission organizations. While they are here, we all share in fellowship together. They join our team for our opening prayer and devotion time in the mornings, and when we have a special event, they are welcome. Our people are

learning from these veteran missionaries, and we are seeing aircraft systems we don't normally have in our hangars.

Proverbs 27:17 tells us that, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." I think that's an appropriate picture for what happens at MMS every day. Sharing the load of ministry is mutually beneficial for us all, and we are made better by the brothers and sisters in Christ whose journeys intersect our own.

For His glory,

Phil

Phil Maddux,
President & CEO

One of Mercy Air's helicopters prepared at MMS was used earlier this year for disaster relief following a devastating cyclone in Malawi.



MMS Aviation

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Enhancing Trust

