

GROUND CREW

APRIL 2026



*A closer look: mounting the right engine
on the Navajo Chieftain.*

MMS *Aviation*

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

KRISTEN WILLIAMS

It wasn't long after Kristen showed up in the hangar that we discovered her love for tortilla chips and brownie batter. Together. She also is a big fan of ham, strawberry, and potato chip sandwiches.

But we're grateful she's passionate about other things too. It was in high school when Kristen's heart for the nations began to grow. Recognizing how mission aviation helps to bridge the gap between those who need the gospel and those who have it, Kristen decided to dual-major at Liberty University with mission aviation and nursing, knowing that a nursing degree could be useful on the field. She is here at MMS now to gain more hands-on experience before heading to Missionary Air Group (MAG) to acquire her pilot's license. Kristen doesn't have a specific country in her sights yet but is waiting on the Lord to lead her where she is most needed. For now, we are loving having her a part of the hangar team, but as far as the tortilla chips and brownie batter goes... well, we'll just have to take her word for it.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CHUCK AND CATHY EGBERT

Chuck is the first and last person that our apprentices work with when they get to the hangar. He does basic training to get them off to a good start, and he conducts the Oral and Practical exams as a Designated Mechanic Examiner for the FAA.

It was in 1996 that Chuck and Cathy Egbert first came to MMS for Chuck to complete the apprenticeship program. Chuck and Cathy both were drawn to mission work, and Chuck, already a pilot, was looking for a place to earn his mechanic certification. After his apprenticeship at MMS was complete, they headed to the field, serving in both Alaska and South Africa.

Although they particularly enjoyed serving in South Africa, in 2006 God redirected them back to MMS as staff. Since then, God has revealed His great faithfulness and grace to them in both the ministry and at home. Through the process of some major rebuild projects, Chuck found his niche in sheet metal work. The Egberts were led to foster and have adopted four children. Their kindness, patience, and servant-heartedness is a testament to God's faithful work in every season of their lives.

TIM AND FABIENNE REUTER

Tim and Fabienne have been familiar faces over the last few years while Tim trained and tested for his certification at MMS and as he helped with a major helicopter project. Their desire is to serve God with the gifts He has given them, and they are doing that well!

Tim specializes in avionics and has already been a huge help on some of our projects, and is also working toward his pilot's licenses. Fabienne is a wonderful baker and blesses many with her breads and her faithful friendship.



Chuck installing elevator bearings.

HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

Upgrades continue on Moody Aviation's Cessna 185 and 206 (pictured below). **Mike Dunkley, Ben Plitt, and Jim Newman** are doing the avionics work. **Tyler Sensenig, Josh Adelsberger, and Shawn Monyer** replaced the engine on the 206.

The Cessna 206 project for Honduras is complete. **Chris Jutte** led the refurbishment, and **Dale Coates** performed the annual inspection, assisted by **Jay Shearer**. The aircraft is awaiting a return to service flight, and some post-flight adjustments.

Mike Mahon continues parts ordering and receiving and has been improving the functionality of our inventory system.

With **Josh Adelsberger** taking a new role as Production Manager, **Jack Harper** is learning how to manage the engine shop. Jack's first project is overhaul of a Continental IO-520 engine..

Tyler and Sharee Sensenig traveled in February to assist JAARS with some helicopter pre-field modifications. The Sensenigs have completed their apprenticeship and will soon be joining Ethnos360 as mechanics.

Jack Harper completed repairs to a Cessna 206 fuselage, and it left in March to be reassembled and begin flying again in Mexico.

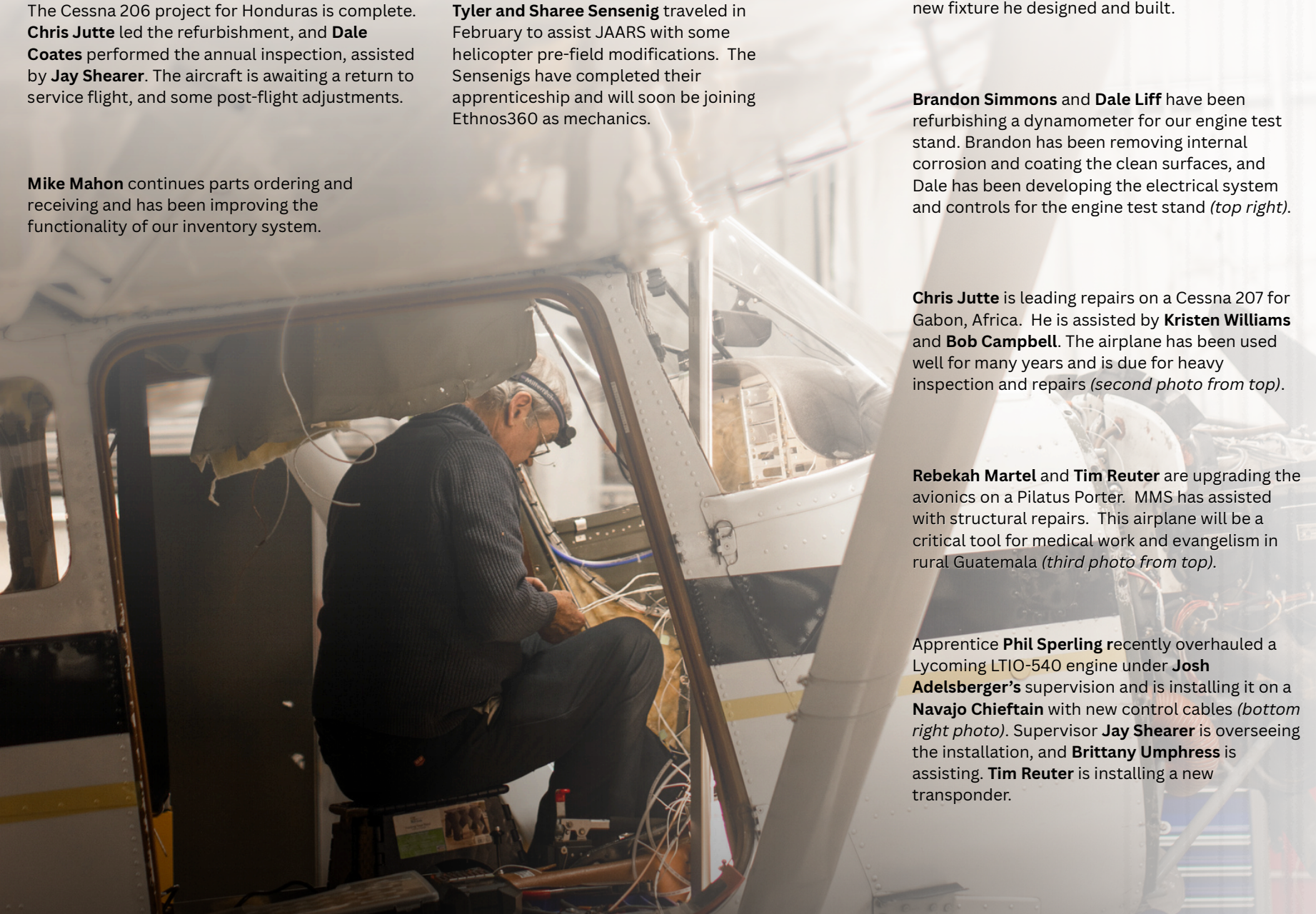
Chuck Egbert repaired two ailerons for a floatplane ministry in Papua New Guinea using a new fixture he designed and built.

Brandon Simmons and **Dale Liff** have been refurbishing a dynamometer for our engine test stand. Brandon has been removing internal corrosion and coating the clean surfaces, and Dale has been developing the electrical system and controls for the engine test stand (top right).

Chris Jutte is leading repairs on a Cessna 207 for Gabon, Africa. He is assisted by **Kristen Williams** and **Bob Campbell**. The airplane has been used well for many years and is due for heavy inspection and repairs (second photo from top).

Rebekah Martel and **Tim Reuter** are upgrading the avionics on a Pilatus Porter. MMS has assisted with structural repairs. This airplane will be a critical tool for medical work and evangelism in rural Guatemala (third photo from top).

Apprentice **Phil Sperling** recently overhauled a Lycoming LTIO-540 engine under **Josh Adelsberger's** supervision and is installing it on a **Navajo Chieftain** with new control cables (bottom right photo). Supervisor **Jay Shearer** is overseeing the installation, and **Brittany Umphress** is assisting. **Tim Reuter** is installing a new transponder.



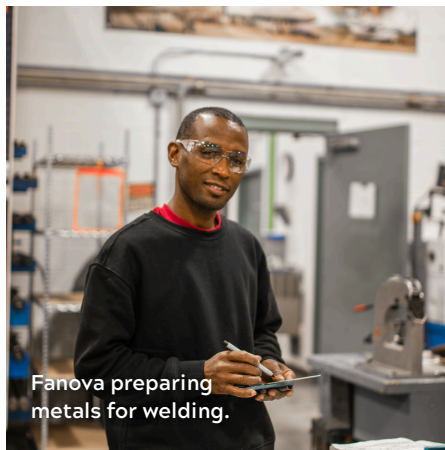
FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Bob Schwartz, Director of Training, working with Brian, preparing him for testing.



Chris Jutte instructing Jurra in welding.



Fanova preparing metals for welding.

As hands on training is paired with book work, Brian (Kenya), Fanova, and Jurra (both coming from Madagascar) are in the States for an intensive track to receive their A&P certificate. This will enable them to work on planes registered in the US, and it will improve their qualifications for service in their home country.

Pray for Jurra, Fanova, and Brian, as they have left families behind in Madagascar and Kenya during their time of training here.

It is bittersweet to be a place of training. "Training" implies preparation for something or somewhere else, and that often means we only get to hold on to our new friends for so long. We are so grateful to get to have time with the extended Body of Christ around the world, and to play a small part in their service to those in their home countries.

President's Pen



Phil Maddux
President and CEO

If I could only keep two books from my library, I would choose a well-worn Bible that was given to me by the wife of a dear pastor after his death, and the autobiography of John G Paton.

Paton was an effective Scottish minister who, to the dismay of his family and friends, entered mission service in 1858 and sailed to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in the South Pacific. Just a few months after arriving, Paton's young wife and newborn son succumbed to pneumonia and fever, leaving him alone to face an evil and violent culture, learn a strange language, and preach the name of Christ among a cannibalistic people. Many nights, he fled to the trees and rocky reefs for protection from those who surrounded his home, intent on killing him. Paton's persistent trust in the providence of God was his comfort on those dark nights, and in his own words he was, "alone, yet not alone." He labored for 11 years before celebrating communion with his first converts on the island. A less resolute man may have been tempted to return to the success he had enjoyed in his homeland. But Paton was a man of faithful persistence. Today, untold numbers of faithful Christians worship the name of Jesus on those islands.

I believe that if John Paton were alive today, he would be an enthusiastic proponent of missionary aviation. On his first furlough, he returned to Scotland to raise funds for a steamship, the *Dayspring*, to be used by the many new missionaries he was recruiting to the island mission work. Like the *Dayspring*, airplanes multiply the efforts of Christian workers who are taking the gospel to places that are far from roads and rails. For those missionaries, airplanes are a tangible reminder that the Lord and his people are very near at all times.

Our team just completed a series looking at the lives of six faithful missionaries. We learned about William Tyndale, Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, William Carey, David Livingstone, and finished with John Paton. Missionary stories encourage and humble us. Most of all, they provide a living testimony to the promises of God. Paton's faithfulness, even in the face of danger and with few visible results, teaches us to trust the words of Christ in Matthew 28:30,

"and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

For His glory!

Phil

