

Airwaves

Pilots for Christ
South Alabama Chapter
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316 Successful Missions Flown

2002 Sets All-Time Record for Missions Flown in 1 Year

*Ministry
Newsletter
Winter 2002*

Mission Report

Pilots for Christ has just completed an all-time record year. We flew more missions this year than ever before in our 9-year history. And God was faithful to provide everything we needed. He provided an extra airplane and an additional pilot when Pat Carter, formerly with Delta Airlines, joined us. Pat's first mission was with Tim Tirey to transport Patsy McCall for surgery after a severe fall overseas.

Tim flew Leesa Ladner of Gulfport to Little Rock for cancer treatment. Terry Chapman flew Darrell Jones to Memphis. Darrell is a 3-year-old who suffers with a brain tumor. Terry and Tim also flew Toshia Casteel of Birmingham to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. Toshia has a tumor in her leg.

Tim and Pat flew Mary Hawthorne of Monroeville to Gainesville, Fla., for treatment of a brain tumor. Terry also flew Harrison Lewis to St. Jude's several times for treatment of his cancer. Pat and Terry flew 1-month-old Jacob Lauderdale to receive heart surgery in Boston for a birth defect.

Claude Swift, E.J. Tenney, Tommy Lee, Tim, and Terry took turns flying Robert Sanders to and from Little Rock. Robert suffers from cancer, and is in great need of your immediate prayers.

We flew Sammie Likely from Mobile to Lexington. He was paralyzed after an accident. We also flew 2 families from Thomasville to Houston -- Dorothy Fendely and Kevin Lyles both suffer from Lou Gehrig's disease. Please pray for all these people and their families.

Ministry Support

So far this year our expenses have been \$35,181, and gifts to this ministry have been \$47,849. These last 90 days, God literally threw open the flood gates of heaven and replenished our finances. So many gave that it would be impossible to name them all here. But, to all of you, from all of us at Pilots for Christ, please accept our deepest appreciation for your prayers and support.

From the President

What a year this has been!! It all started earlier this year as more and more calls came in from those in need of our services. By mid-year, we were on track to more than double our average number of missions. Unfortunately, this greater need also placed a huge demand on our finances. During the summer, I informed our supporters of our financial situation. Shortly thereafter, we were forced to place this ministry on God's altar and suspend all flights. As God worked, this news reached the churches, the public, and many organizations. The response was nothing short of a miracle. And, as is always the case when things go bad, we all tend to pray more -- I certainly did! But, it was God who stirred the hearts of His people to give.

Many individuals gave not only money, but also their time and their talents. Special recognition is due Mary Tomlinson for her work on the article in The Monroe Journal, and also Bob Ellis for organizing the Aviation Appreciation Day at First Baptist Church in Monroeville for Pilots for Christ. The care and concern of this community touch all of us at Pilots for Christ. Some people would give me cash and never even ask for a receipt or an acknowledgement. This really caused me to reflect on the trust the people place in us. Those who give are trusting us to be good stewards; those we fly are trusting us to be safe pilots; and those Moms and Dads who place their sick child on our plane are trusting us with their most precious possession. I Corinthians 4:2 states, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." So, I understand better than ever before the trust all of you are placing in Pilots for Christ, and with God's help, we will strive to be worthy of that trust.

But, there is one more matter in this area of trust that we need to visit. As we celebrate the Christmas season, reflecting on the birth of Christ and what that really means to us as Christians, I have begun to realize the fact that God Himself is trusting us! He is trusting us to be obedient, to care for a hurting world, and to witness to the lost of His great love and faithfulness. Now it is abundantly clear that God does the work, but He has chosen to do His work through us. He is literally trusting us to trust Him and obey the leading of His Holy Spirit. That is quite simply our job. And, as strange as it sounds, the kind of person God uses to do His work is the one who knows full well that he can't do the work -- unless God Himself helps him.

Several years ago, I saw a video that showed what it may be like when we step into Heaven. There is Jesus, fact to face, greeting us and saying, "Thank you for trusting me." What an awesome thought! To think that Jesus Christ Himself is thanking me for trusting Him when my thought is, "Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me."

My prayer this year is that we would all ask ourselves this question, "**What is it that God is trusting me to do for Him?**" For as we trust Him, I believe that He will show us what He has planned for each one of us. I Corinthians 2:9 says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love (trust) Him."

Merry Christmas from all of us at Pilots for Christ!

Tommy