

Each month PCI will bring a member's story to print, about their flying, or a mission, experience. This month, it is my story, about how God affected my life. (Please send me your story)

I started flying in 1975, after Vietnam. An unforgettable experience almost grounded me for life. Then Jesus brought me back!

In 2001, I thrust myself back into flying with an enthusiasm that I had not seen in many years. I got back in the saddle so to speak, after a period that I had sworn I would never fly another airplane, when all I had to do was Trust in Jesus. It was April in 1976, a very windy overcast day, along the Gulf Coast in Southwest Florida. I was scheduled to take a training flight from Venice, FL down to Naples, FL. I don't believe that anyone understood wind shear in those days, but it was about to become a reality in my life. I remember the small Cessna 150, lifting off runway 13 and I can certainly remember the buffeting and turbulence, as all 1600 lbs of aircraft lifted into the sky. My flight plan was for 6000 ft, and I can remember the anxiety of climbing to that altitude, especially with the turbulence and dodging clouds. In those days, everything was by "dead reckoning" or use of a VOR. I was told that you could never get lost in Florida, as all you had to do was fly to either coast then just find an airport. So, finding Naples was easy, as I just followed the Gulf Coast, down along Englewood, across Boca Grande, Ft. Myers Beach, then I was at Naples. Coming back, I drifted right, found Punta Gorda then followed US 41 back to Venice. Of course now the winds were really knocking me around, as I remained below the cloud deck all the way to Venice.

Venice is a nice old military airport from WWII, it has multiple runways and this always worked well with cross winds. Except on this day, runway 4 & 22 were closed due to some maintenance issues, so my only usable runway was 13. The turbulence was getting "severe" now and I had all I could do to keep the Cessna straight and level. As I approached the threshold I could see the windsock standing straight out at a direct crosswind (35K), quite a ride in a small Cessna. At about 200 ft above the ground the Cessna suddenly climbed violently up 500 ft, then began to plummet toward Earth, and I really thought this was it. As I now know, it was the hand of God that was under my Cessna, that March day in 1977, and His mighty hand, gently, placed me on the runway, just sitting still, not moving, at a dead stop.

My adrenaline kicked in and I was shaking uncontrollably, as I tayled to

My adrenaline kicked in and I was shaking uncontrollably, as I taxied to the ramp. I managed to stagger into the operations office, threw my log book at the manager, didn't say a word, and never flew again for 24 years.

Praise God He had further plans for my life. I thank God for my son Andy who went to Venice Flying Service, found my log book up in the attic and sent it back to me in 2001.

Jesus had further plans for my life and He has plans for you!

Never shut Him out of your life!



Alabama Chapter Tommy Lee-President 251-575-3585





The past 3 months have been very busy ones for the South Alabama Chapter. God gave us the opportunity to help many in need, as we flew 29 total missions. During the month of November, a record number of 13 missions were flown.

One particular patient who touched our hearts is 27-year-old Sherry Martin. Sherry was flown from Pensacola to Gainesville, FL to seek treatment for a very painful disorder called idiopathic intracranial hypertension. We also made several trips with cancer patients to Houston, TX for treatment at MD Anderson Hospital. Please pray for these and all our passengers, family members and pilots as we make these flights.

As we begin the year of 2012, we look forward to providing needed transportation to those who cannot travel by any other means. We believe that this year will be an historic one, as we approach our 1,000th flight since our beginning in 1994! We ask God to use us in accordance with His will as we are continually blessed through this ministry that He has given us.

Our armual "To God Be the Glory" concert featuring Christian comedian Dennis Swanberg and local singer, songwriter, recording artist Lee Black will be held Saturday, February 25. Please call Phil Allen or Sandra Dunn at 251-575-3200 for more information. We would be pleased to have you attend!

Until next time, may God bless you, keep you, and fly with you! By Phil Allen



Arkansas Chapter Lance Winn-President 870-236-3809





It has been a good year for Arkansas Pilots for Christ! As I look back over the year just passed I thank God that he has allowed APFC to minister to many people and to make a difference in their lives by providing much needed transportation in a specific situation. As of this writing we have had the privilege of taking part in 30 missions of one kind or another. I have highlighted a couple of those missions below.

Pictured below are, APFC pilot Scott Watson, passenger Madison Matthews, and her mother Diane Matthews. Madison is being treated in Kansas City for Lyme's disease. With help from the Alabama chapter and the Kansas City Heartland chapter we were able to get Madison home to Alabama for a much needed weekend and then transport her back to Lee's Summit MO in the Kansas City area.

Partnering with other chapters



(L) Arbanese Pilot Scott Matthews Malison & Mom



(R) Find Charles Med son Moment Done

(L) Iommy Lee, Madison, Mom



APFC pilot Joey Massey (not pictured) transported Elizabeth Williams and her daughter from Memphis TN to Springfield IL to take care of her ailing father who had been hospitalized. A few days later APFC pilot Charles Pool (pictured) transported Elizabeth and her daughter back home to Memphis, see pic on Mission Gallery page 8.



Cincinnati Tri-State Chapter Dennis Estell-President 513-831-2611







A family receives transportation from Huntington WV to Cincinnati for infant surgery. Members of Pilots for Christ, International demonstrate the love our our Lord and Savior by providing free air transportation to individuals or groups in need. (Pictured, Pilot and President Dennis Estell.)



Past Texas Chapter Richard Yazeli-President 901-241-2191







Meet every 2nd Sat of the month. We have great Christian fellowship at my hanger with a noon meal. We are a still a fairly new chapter so we are speaking at local civic clubs and churches trying to get the word out what East Tx PFC does. I am taking Grace flights when we don't have any PFC missions since I've been flying those since 1999. But I treat them as a PFC missions and pray and share Jesus with them in the aircraft.



Washington State Chapter Steve Townsend-President 360-871-8046





Welcome to the Washington State Chapter of Pilots for Christ International (PCI). All chapter members (pilots and non-pilots alike) love the Lord Jesus Christ and joined PCI because they have a desire to serve others through aviation. Our pilots are all licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to carry passengers and cargo. Our chapter currently has seven airplanes (4 to 6 seats each) available for use. All chapter members are eager to use their skills and abilities in the Lord's service. If you have any need that can be supported by our general aviation fleet, would like to join PCI or just have questions, please contact us.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding be with you always.

Steve



Wyoming Chapter Steve Barbour-President 307-686-2573





The "Amazing Gray's" a women's prayer group form High Plains Community here in Gillette gave all of our pilots hand knitted scarfs as a Christmas gift. They enclosed the following prayer. (Submitted by Julie Shock)

Eternal Father and God Most High

We place these pilots into Your loving and skillful Hands- these who serve You by serving their fellow mankind.

As they undertake each mission and slip the bonds of earth to dance through sun-kissed clouds and so ar over patchwork fields and mirrored lakes below, lift them up on eagle's wings. Provide Your counselthrough every moment of their journey. Protect their flight. Preserve from all perils and restore them safe and sound to their loved ones. Seal each gift of time and effort to bring glory to Your holy Name, the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2011 Report:

152 Total Mission Requests - 12.6 monthly average 70 Missions Completed - 5.8 monthly average 66 Missions No-Go - 5.5 monthly average.