

# The Vennell-a Scoop

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Christmas 2009



**Merry Christmas from our family to yours!**

We know this is a very busy time for everyone. So many things to get done; so many people to buy for; so many cookies to bake for the cookie exchanges; and, don't forget, all the Christmas plays and musicals that the kids are putting on. We just spent time yesterday going to one for Natalie in the morning and Courtney in the afternoon. Same exact play,

## How to pray for the Vennells

It has been a long journey this year in waiting on the Lord. This year has also been a very trying time. As many of you know we were supposed to have had some choices of locations for our family to serve as early as May. Well, May came and went, as did many other months, and here we found ourselves at the end of the year wondering if our time in MAF was coming to a close. I had been working on a Masters in Strategic Leadership and had hoped to use what I learned to

but they were not in the same group which led to them duplicating the play. It was fun, though, to see the girls being in Christmas plays. There was only one of those in Africa, and it was quite simple. Amazing how simple the Christmas Story truly is. I pray that this time of the year you will consider what God has done by sending His Son, Jesus Christ!

help be a leader in MAF. What was God doing? Well, we still do not know other than teaching us to wait on Him. We still do not have a location to serve, but in the last three weeks, four different locations have come available. Please pray for Australia, Kenya, and Tanzania, in that order. We hope to give you more as we know more! Our desire is to continue to serve God with MAF and we are praying that He works out in our minds and MAF's where that will be. Everyone is kind of anxious!

## *Things we learned our kids like while in America.*

- Carson likes parades because "they fro caandy on road"
- living next-door to a school and its playground
- lots and lots of snow (we didn't see much in Africa)

*The beaches in Australia look beautiful until you see the signs that say, "These waters are crocodile infested!"*



We thought you might get a kick out of Thomas the train at Halloween.

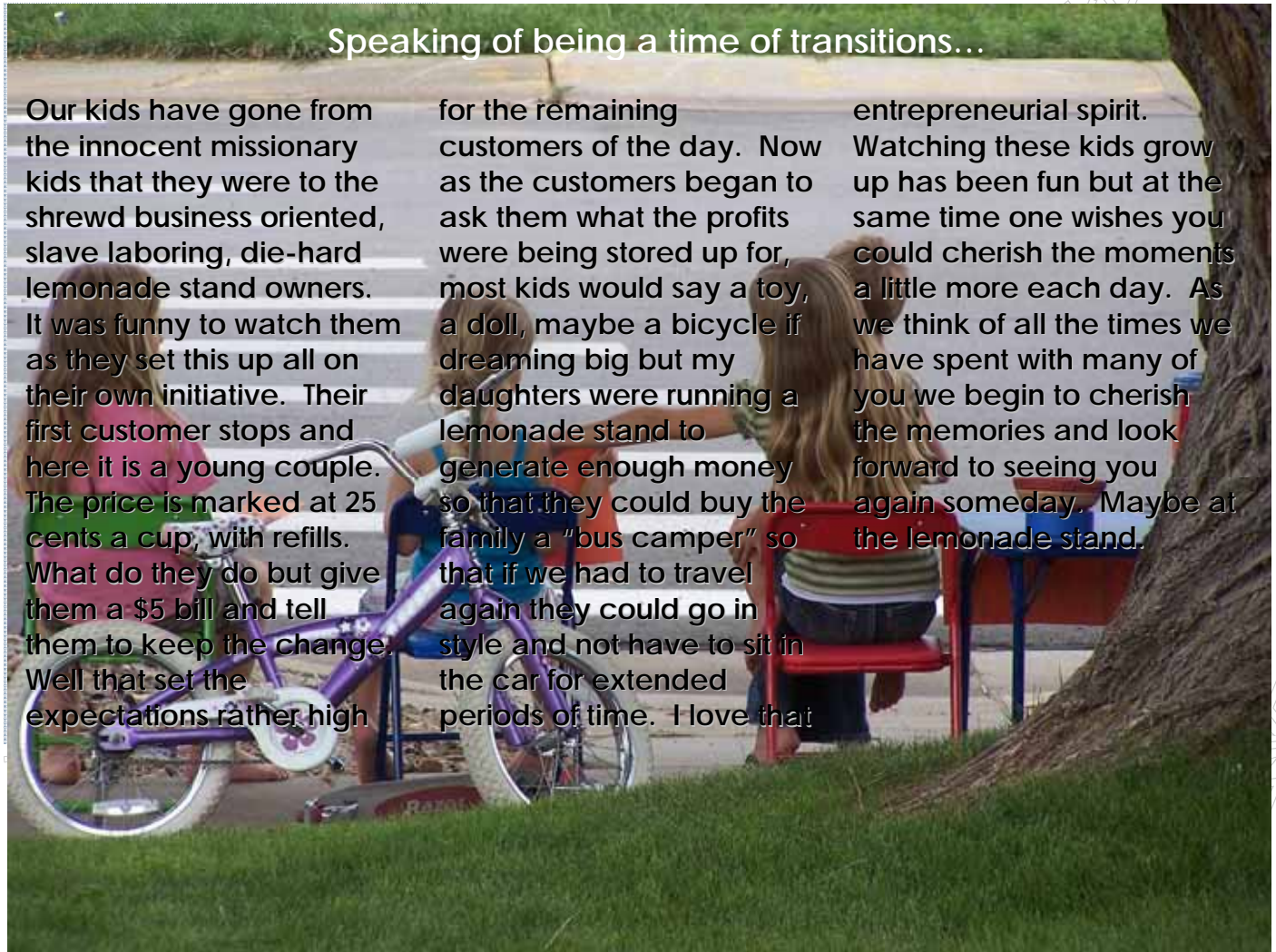


## Speaking of being a time of transitions...

Our kids have gone from the innocent missionary kids that they were to the shrewd business oriented, slave laboring, die-hard lemonade stand owners. It was funny to watch them as they set this up all on their own initiative. Their first customer stops and here it is a young couple. The price is marked at 25 cents a cup, with refills. What do they do but give them a \$5 bill and tell them to keep the change. Well that set the expectations rather high

for the remaining customers of the day. Now as the customers began to ask them what the profits were being stored up for, most kids would say a toy, a doll, maybe a bicycle if dreaming big but my daughters were running a lemonade stand to generate enough money so that they could buy the family a "bus camper" so that if we had to travel again they could go in style and not have to sit in the car for extended periods of time. I love that

entrepreneurial spirit. Watching these kids grow up has been fun but at the same time one wishes you could cherish the moments a little more each day. As we think of all the times we have spent with many of you we begin to cherish the memories and look forward to seeing you again someday. Maybe at the lemonade stand.



### Support address:

Mission Aviation Fellowship  
PO Box 47  
Nampa, ID 83653



### Phone Numbers:

(605)559-0215  
(806)367-2699

[tvennell@maf.org](mailto:tvennell@maf.org)

## The Elephant in the Room

Many people have asked us if they still need to support us while we are in the US. The answer is a resounding YES. Even though we are living in the USA we still live from what we receive through MAF and that is made possible by you and the churches that you are a part of. We thank you all for continuing to give so that we can keep serving. We are anxious to get an assignment, and we would like you to add that to your prayer list. Please pray for wisdom for our MAF leaders as they plan and prepare for the future. Please also pray for the Vennells as you think about us. Thank you again!!

*Jim and Tonya*  
With much love,



MT Rushmore and Sturgis Harley Davidson Rally