A letter from the Chairman of the ACMA Board

Dear Friends of Mission Aviation,

Thank you for your continued commitment as partners in the work of training and preparing young men and women to serve as pilots and engineers on the fields where the incredible gift of aviation has enhanced the work of the Gospel.

Your support is even more significant as we move into the new future as a separately incorporated operation. Through your partnership with us we assure you that you are making an impact in many places. Only Heaven itself will reveal the value you have given as you have supported this ministry. Your help is making a difference, and one day you will know the full extent of your investment in seeing prayer answered and the money spent having saved lives and blessed missionaries at the end of the line.

From its inception ACMA (originally known as the MAC Course) has been a department of the Bible College of Victoria, with the College being responsible to give the Bible training for the students and ACMA the technical training. Due to BCV (now renamed the Melbourne School of Theology – MST) moving to Wantirna and other factors it has been deemed wise to establish the Aviation training program as a separate organisation. This is basically now in place and ACMA will be on its own as from January 2011.

MST will continue as a partner and provide the Bible training for students, and help with the academic standards and accreditation requirements of our courses. The move does mean that MST no longer will be able to provide accommodation. This is a major concern for us and an important prayer item. Such accommodation is an essential aspect for us in housing overseas and interstate students, and in particular our married students.

The need for pilots and mechanics remains urgent, especially the need is for engineers to be trained.

Two things we would ask you to pray about:

1. that God will raise up young people who will catch the vision for mission aviation work, and
2. for the finance to sustain this ministry going forward. In reality ACMA is a faith venture and we are trusting the Lord to provide the extra finance needed, since the income from student fees does not cover all the necessary costs. Aeroplanes happen to be a very expensive item whether in training pilots, or in acquiring the equipment and administration needed for the program.

Aeroplanes remain a vital link on mission fields in the Pacific and Africa in particular. The transport of missionaries and their supplies is crucial, and especially in areas where travel is hazardous and unsafe by road. Stress, strain, and time are significantly reduced. I remember well that it took my wife and I three days to walk from the airstrip to the village where we served in the highlands of PNG. When the helicopter came we were able to cover the same distance in 17 minutes!

We thank you for your interest and want to invite you, as we move to this new level of interdependence with God’s people, to join us in praying and giving to sustain this strategic aspect of missionary work. We are delighted to report that during the 16 years ACMA has been training mission pilots and engineers, 180 students have graduated.

I also commend to you the instructors and staff that the Lord has provided. We are looking to the Lord to help in their financial support and if you would like to become a partner with one of them, we would welcome that and rejoice in such provision.

In closing let me give you a cordial invitation to visit the Centre at Coldstream airfield. The team there would love to show you what God has provided up to this time with equipment, staff and students, and share some of the miracles that God has worked to make this vision a wonderful reality. A call to the office desk at 9739 0612 would be welcome and arrangements can be made for a tour.

We welcome your interest and fellowship in this vital ministry.

Warmly in Christ,

David Cummings
Chairman of the ACMA Board