

On the Rhoads

February 2008

Brad and Susan Rhoads serving Christ worldwide with Mission Aviation Fellowship

Blessings & Requests

- Praise God for the hope we have as Christians
- Pray for Susan's mom and the rest of the family as we adjust to the loss of Susan's dad
- Praise God for the ways we have seen Him direct our lives
- Pray for God to work in a mighty way to provide the needed funds for this ministry
- Pray for a consistency in our family worship
- Pray for the Learning Technologies team and the current projects, especially our work in Kenya

Stay at the Table

The idea of “family worship” has been getting a lot attention. It's a pretty simple idea: us dad's are supposed to be the primary spiritual leaders in our homes. We're supposed to be the priests, prophets, and protectors of our family. I attended a men's retreat in Lake Geneva, WI, last month. The speaker suggested that to be a spiritual leader meant that we should do these things with our families:

- Read Scripture together
- Pray together
- Sing together
- Memorize Scripture together

I was convicted about this and thought a lot about why I have failed in the past. I think God gave me at least part of the answer. I realized that even though we eat dinner together most nights of the week, there's typically little conversation and when someone is done eating, they head off to play or watch TV. God gave me a revelation. I need my family to Stay At The Table!

In fact that's just what I'm calling this event of family worship in our home, Stay At The Table. The idea works on so many levels. First, it's literally what I'm having my family do. No more dine-and-dash! We're going to stay at the table and hear God's word and talk about it and pray together. We'll probably sing some of the time, although it's been a custom since the kids were born to sing to them at bedtime. I haven't quite figured out where the memorization is going to come in, but the kids are in AWANA, so we'll probably play off of that.

Then, besides the literal meaning of Stay At The Table, there's the fact that God's word is spiritual food that we need to keep taking in. Plus, as my kids become teenagers, I want them to Stay At The Table of our home and of God's Word.



Brad at a Men's Retreat in January.

Go and Make Disciples

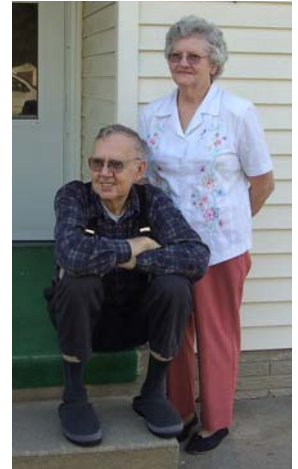
It is exciting to think about how Christ's name is being preached in the remotest areas of the world. But the surge in church growth in the developing world has created an overwhelming need for training for church leaders. We are called to make disciples. We must help equip native church leaders to effectively disciple their people.

The Learning Technologies team of Mission Aviation Fellowship provides education and technical expertise to ministries that are struggling to meet the demand of *the largest leadership training gap in church history*. By partnering with other ministries, the LT team of education and technology specialists can equip native church leaders with the education and tools they need to disciple the millions of new believers around the world. This is an incredibly most strategic area in missions today.

God's Great Provision in the Past

As we look back on 2007 we are once again amazed by the work of the Lord. God clearly called us to be in this place at this time. He provided a buyer for our home last summer which allowed Brad to resign from his corporate job and our family to join the staff of Mission Aviation Fellowship. Needing a place to live, God continued to provide for our needs with free housing in Princeton, IL, while we raise support for our work with Learning Technologies.

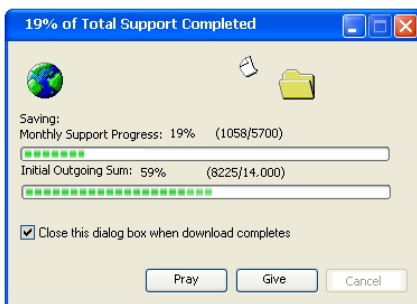
Since returning to Illinois in the fall, God's great provision became evident in a different way. Susan's dad's health declined rapidly and he went home to be with the Lord on January 4, 2008. God allowed us to live near Susan's family during our transition into ministry. Being here during this time allowed us the blessing and privilege of caring for Susan's dad in his last days before going home to be with the Lord. We consider that a gift. "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17a).



Susan's parents, Richard and Nancy Kinnamon have been a model of faithfulness to each other and to God

God's Great Provision in the Future

While we consider the time we have spent caring for Susan's dad a blessing, it has significantly impacted our ministry support progress. Our goal is be fully funded and relocated to MAF headquarters in Nampa, ID, by the first of November this year. We are trusting once again in God's great provision to make this happen. In March, we will have our 6 month review with MAF who has been providing us with benefits and a partial salary. At this time we are bringing in less than 20% of our monthly support need. We need to make significant progress quickly! Here is what we'd love for you to do:



- Pray that God will work in a mighty way to bring in the needed funds. Pray that it will happen in such a way that all can see it was HIS work and not ours that resulted in the need being met.
- Prayerfully consider whether or not you can help meet the financial need. We need people to give monthly, quarterly, or annually to the ongoing needs of the ministry.
- Consider becoming a champion for this ministry by telling others about it and inviting them to become ministry partners. Do you know of an individual or group who would be encouraged by our story and work? Please let us know.

Ways to Partner with us!

If God is leading you to partner with our ministry and bring theological education to the remotest of the remote, here are some ways you can make it happen.

An easy way to give is through automatic monthly transfers. Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) is the best way to give because it minimizes administrative costs. You can use the enclosed EFT form.

- You can also set up automatic giving through your credit or debit card online at <http://www.maf.org/rhoads> or just call 800.359.7623 and ask for Donor Services, or use the enclosed form.
- Of course mailing a check, using the enclosed envelope works great! Thank you!

You can give online at www.maf.org/rhoads

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