

"HEY KIDS, REMEMBER"



There are many kinds of missionary jobs. Missionary pilots help other missionaries do their jobs. What kind of missionary would you like to be? Ask God what His plan for you is.

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to inspire a new generation of missionary goers and senders who will be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. To financially contribute to this project or for other matters, Contact the editor: elinor.young@worldteam.org

GC Kids is a service of World Team:
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Issue 52: Betty Greene, Mission Aviation



**Betty
Greene,
Missionary
Pilot**

"But Lord, I don't want to be a nurse," Betty prayed.

To please her parents, she was in college, studying to become a nurse. Betty knew nurses did a lot of good, but that's not what she wanted to do. She just wanted to fly. Betty was already a private pilot, loved travel and adventure, and loved the Lord. This was eighty years ago, though, when women couldn't have pilot jobs.

"What shall I do?" Betty asked God.

God used a family friend to give Betty this advice: "Why not combine flying and missionary work? Think of all the time—and sometimes lives—that could be saved if missionaries didn't have to spend weeks hacking their way through jungles."

Logo photo source: www.kids-world-travel-guide.com

Later, Betty said, "I leaped for joy at the thrilling thought of combining flying with my love for God."¹

After college, when World War 2 started, Betty signed up with WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots). She got to fly many kinds of airplanes in all sorts of situations. This was good practice for her later on.

After Betty resigned from the Air Force, she wrote an article for a Christian magazine about using planes to help missionaries. A Navy pilot read the article and contacted Betty and suggested starting an aviation organization to serve missionaries once the war ended. With two more pilots, they formed the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship. Later it became Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Betty was the first full-time staff member of MAF, trying to spread the news about MAF and trying to gather funds and pilots.

On February 23, 1946, Betty was the pilot of the very first MAF flight. It

was to take two missionaries from Los Angeles, California, to Mexico City. Betty described the take-off this way:

"As I pushed the throttle forwards, dust whipped up in a cloud behind us. I climbed westward and circled back over the group of friends who waved to us as I dipped the wing in salute."



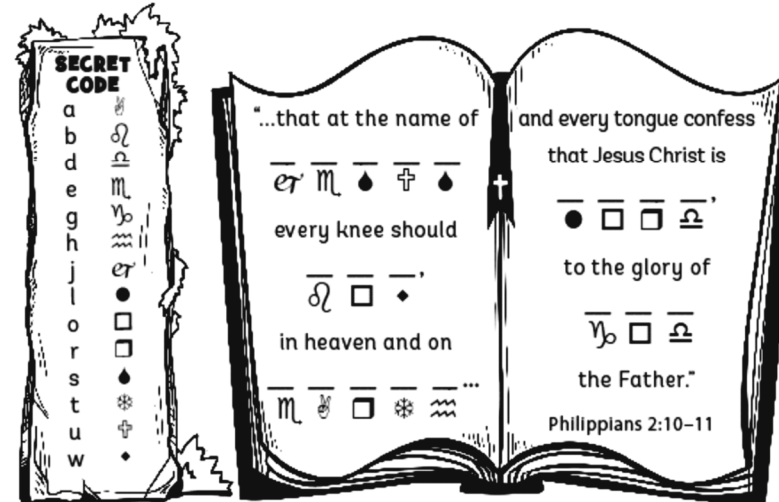
After that first flight, Betty continued to fly in Mexico, but also became the first MAF pilot to go into Peru. To do that, she had to fly across the high Andes mountains. Many pilots were too scared to go over those mountains. But Betty Greene did it and so became the **first** woman pilot to fly over the Andes!

Betty flew as an MAF pilot for sixteen years and

The story about Betty Greene tells about one of her mission adventures in Papua. Fill in the answers below to learn why Betty did what she did.



Hello! My name is Tagoga. For years my ^{people} didn't have a Bible in our language. Most of us had never heard of Jesus Christ! Few missionaries came to tell us about Him because there were no roads leading to our ^{people}. To reach us you'd have to cross dangerous rivers and walk *for days* through dense and deadly jungles! But God knew how much my ^{people} wanted more missionaries to come. Finally, ^{people} missionaries were able to fly into our ^{people}. In just minutes! They learned our language, translated the Bible for us, and now my ^{people} can read God's Word! Before MAF came to help us, your Bible looked as strange to us as the characters below. See if you can crack the Secret Code and translate this Bible verse.



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

WHY do missionary pilots live across the world, away from where they used to live?

⇒ Because they want to help other missionaries do their work until **PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11** is done.

AT THE NAME OF
JESUS EVERY
KNEE WILL BOW, IN
HEAVEN ON EARTH
AND UNDER THE
EARTH, AND EVERY
TONGUE WILL
CONFESS THAT
JESUS CHRIST
IS LORD TO THE
GLORY OF GOD THE
FATHER

Philippians 2:10-11
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continued to work for MAF even when she no longer flew.

Betty's last year and a half of mission flying was in Papua, Indonesia. One day she agreed to check out Hitadipa, a new mission airstrip, to approve it for planes to use. Otherwise the missionaries of that area would have to trek for days over mountain trails to get to their village. But that meant she and her companions needed to trek in themselves.

By late afternoon, Betty panted, "I can't go much farther. Are we near Hitadipa?" Around the next corner they saw it, a long way down. Just seeing it gave them strength to go on. The village people looked up and saw them coming, too, and started to sing and dance with joy. The next day Betty and companions inspected and approved the airstrip.

This was just one of Betty's happy memories in later years.



At Hitadipa

Along the way Betty and her helpers had to cross a river on a bridge made of vines. "OK, Betty, stay calm," she said to herself. Once across, they climbed a mountain almost a 1.5 miles high. They camped on the mountain for the night.

The next day they went through an area where people had been fighting. God kept them safe.

This brave woman completed 4,640 flights. Betty Greene flew in 12 countries including Mexico, Peru, Nigeria, Sudan, Papua Indonesia, and others.

Ask any missionary pilot and they will tell you mission flying is a wonderful life.

[1] From *Flying High* by Betty Greene with Dietrich Buss.

Why MAF Team Members Do What They Do

Why in the world would MAF missionaries spend their lives helping people they don't know in villages far away? Read the Bible verse around this globe and the words below it to find out.



MAF wants every person in the whole world to know God's love and believe in His Son Jesus Christ, so MAF uses planes and technology to bring help and hope and the message of the Gospel to the most isolated people on earth.

Maybe someday God will call *you* to serve with MAF!

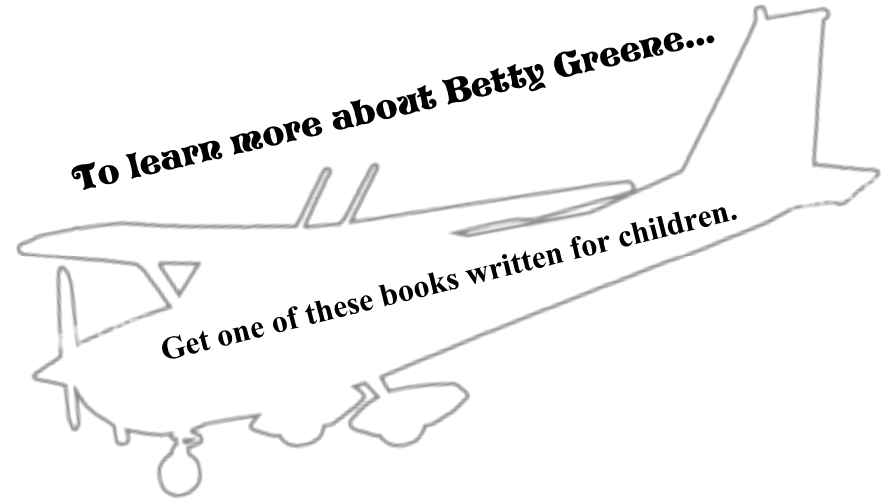


Go to maf.org with your parents to learn more about what God is doing through MAF.

Fun MAF Facts

- MAF was started over 70 years ago by military pilots who wanted to use their aviation skills to reach the isolated people in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Betty Greene was the first MAF pilot. She flew an MAF flight into Mexico in 1946.
- Today MAF has a fleet of over 125 planes serving in more than 37 countries around the globe!
- MAF airplanes help over 2000 organizations bring help and hope to places all over the world.
- Every 4 minutes an MAF aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the remotest places on earth.
- A small village high in the mountains of Lesotho saw its first movie brought in by an MAF plane. The movie was the "JESUS" film!
- You can learn more about MAF by watching videos that tell about MAF's work around the world. Check them out at maf.org!

To learn more about Betty Greene...
Get one of these books written for children.



This is one of the pages of the fun activity book by Mission Aviation Fellowship. The book is called *Sharing God's Love Around the World* and can be downloaded free at www.maf.org/resources/kids-resources/activity-books. Used by permission.