



Pastor Connect

10th September, 2009

Faith and Trust

"Ok, it's your turn, you're ready now!" With that, my instructor had me stop the plane in the parking area, told me to go and do a solo circuit, and got out of the plane. It was a sunny Saturday morning out at Bankstown airport in Sydney, and we had been flying circuits of the airfield. These are training flights where you take off, fly a rectangle around the airfield, come in and land, then take off again immediately and repeat. And now it was time for me to do it by myself. I didn't know that it was going to happen on this lesson and I didn't have time to say no!



So, instructor-less I taxied off to the end of the runway. For the first time there was no one to double check what I was doing. No one to catch any mistakes I might be making. It was all up to me and I was very nervous. I had one plane ahead of me to wait for, but it went by in an instant and then I was getting clearance to line up on the runway, ready to take off. Then "T-Bird Tango Golf Lima runway right cleared for take-off" came over the radio and I had to go. You can't wait around once cleared as you will be endangering other planes. So throttles forward, brakes off, starting down the runway, checking instruments and trying to stay on track. I remember thinking how much quicker the plane lifted off without the extra weight of the instructor present! Then in no time at all I was flying back down the airport preparing to land. With landing, everything has to be prepared in advance and there are checklists, speeds, heights, trim, throttle, mixture etc etc that all have to be correctly set for the landing to happen. Oh, and make sure you hit the runway at the right spot!

In the end everything worked well. I got myself up in the air and back down again. I was prepared well by my instructor, and the rigorous training made sure that I knew everything that had to be done to make the flight a success.

Looking back now I can see that, as a pilot, I was operating within the three elements that make up faith: knowledge, belief and trust.

So what did I know? I knew that this was an exciting activity that was relatively safe. I couldn't prove for certain that every flight was going to be safe, but the statistics show that very few plane flights end up in trouble. I couldn't prove it 100%, but I had evidence, just as someone seeking God reads the bible, sees the creation of God and talks with and watches other Christians has evidence that there is a God.

And what did I believe? I had to believe that this was a safe activity and that my plane was well made and well maintained. I had to believe in my instructor when he said I was ready and that I had to knowledge to fly solo. Just as when someone is seeking God they must come to the point

where they say "Yes I believe that the promises of God are true."

Then comes to vital step: Trust. After all of the preparation, I still didn't know if I could actually do it. I still didn't know the thrill of flying solo until I sat at the end of the runway, pushed the throttle forward, and took off up into the sky alone. So it is with faith. We can never know the power and wonder of God until we step out in trust, take a risk, and commit our life to God.

Rev Gavin Ward

Announcements:

Sleaze Ball

Sleaze Ball is happening again this year on the 3rd October. MCC Sydney is again doing the cloakroom for this party and we are looking for volunteers. It's a great way to meet other people in the church while helping to raise money and the awareness of MCC in the community. Each shift is 3 hours long and you get a free pass into the party! If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at pastor@mccsydney.org.

Christmas Eve Service

I am delighted to announce that this year's service will be held at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, with the Homotones, the Gay and Lesbian Choir and other special guests performing. The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby has also graciously agreed to be our speaker.

This is a magnificent world-class performance venue that seats 1200 people and it has a wonderful atmosphere. This is a big step for us as a Church to take! I know however that it is the right decision so to be able to bring the message of love, acceptance and freedom to our community at this special but also often difficult time of year.

Please pray for the service preparation and planning and that people will feel welcome to come and share with us. Please also start spreading the words to friends, workmates, social groups and networks about how great these services are! I am very excited about Christmas Eve and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to come and see me or the board.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service. Elizabeth Plant will be preaching.

6:30pm Service - Crave

This week is being Church - "what do you hear when the bread is torn", looking at the importance of communion (Eucharist). Why do we partake of communion? What does it mean? Come along to find out more.

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