

WHAT ABOUT THAT THIRD PLANE?

Missionary Flights is actively fundraising for the maintenance and addition of MFI Aircraft. Specifically, we are nearly halfway through the fundraising of \$2 Million toward our third turbine DC-3 airplane.

The initial plan was to complete the project in stages. In 2021, we anticipated shipping the center section of the plane to a company in Ohio to perform essential repairs, and then for the next year or so we were going to work extensively on the fuselage in-house. Due to an industry-wide struggle with personnel, the plan has drastically changed. Progress on our third aircraft has been pretty much at a standstill all year. The company in Ohio that we planned to partner with is now no longer able to take on the work of refurbishing our center section as originally planned due to a drastic decrease in their skilled labor.

However, there is another option. For the last few years, this company in Ohio has put over 5,000 hours of work into the wings of our third airplane. They now have given MFI the option, at a very reduced cost, to place our wings on a fuselage and center section that they have already been working on. While the cockpit and instrument panel still needs extensive work, much of the aircraft has been refurbished to a nearly "brand new" state.

The good news is that we can get this plane for the original estimate of \$2 Million. This would be a much better deal for us than previously anticipated because all of the skin on the exterior of this aircraft has been completely redone. Another benefit is that we will have many spare parts from the original



Pictured above is the proposed fuselage and center section that have already been refurbished and would have our completed wings attached.

plane to use to maintain our fleet in the future. The MFI Board has just decided to move forward with this project and are excited that MFI could potentially have a third aircraft operating before the end of next year!

The next important decision we need to make is what engines to install on this new plane. We have the two engines from our original third plane that, over the last few years, have been rotated onto our other planes in our fleet. So we either need to put money into overhauling those engines or we could purchase new upgraded more modern engines. Please pray for God's wisdom and direction for MFI's leadership in this major decision.