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**Our Lord's Airforce**  
**GOOD NEWS MAGAZINE**

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# All Members

## National Day of Prayer 2013

Neale Thompson and I got airborne at about 3:00pm and did a touch-and-go into and out of St. Paul Downtown Holman Field in close proximity to the skyscrapers and the capitol building. Neale vocalized the prayer for our state. We then headed east to enter Wisconsin airspace and prayed for our leaders and brothers and sisters in Wisconsin then headed south towards Iowa, our goal to pray in Iowa state airspace. We saw the line of thunder cells pop up in front of us at about 20:00z just like the weather forecast had predicted. Flight Watch verified what we were seeing and described what lay behind. We followed their suggestion to deviate a bit southeast of our track to Austin MN to skirt clear between two cells then back to a southwesterly heading after circumnavigating the most ominous cell. Neale prayed for the leaders and inhabitants of Iowa as we crossed the border from Minnesota. Our arrival into Mason City (NCW) was uneventful but the sky turned from gray to black just north of MCW as we refueled and checked the weather. It was oddly calm given the proximity of the two huge cells that would block our way on the return trip. Just as we were walking out to the plane in a matter of seconds the winds went from zero to what looked like in excess of 30 knots sustained (wind sock straight out) as a tremendous in-flow into the base of the storm cell hit us. While I was still about 30 feet away the ailerons of the Cardinal began fluttering wildly and the plane began rolling away and picking up speed. I hadn't insisted it be chocked when the fuel truck pulled up earlier because it was dead calm on the ground when we had arrived and clear sky overhead. Big lesson learned here. ALWAYS chock the aircraft!!! So here I was running after the plane. My heart sank as I got close and the wind in an effort to weathervane the Cardinal shoved the tail around and lifted the far wing. I was able to grab the right wing tip and arrest the motion as Neale caught up and took hold of the tail. One lineboy then another showed up and we stood in the blowing wind for what seemed like forever (probably only about 1 or 2 minutes) until it subsided enough to point the bird into the wind. We attempted to tie it down but while fumbling with unworkable ratchet bands offered by the lineboys, we decided the wind had calmed enough to allow us to climb aboard and start up. Based on radar images our plan was to depart as soon as possible and then outrun the two big cells by heading east until clear enough to work our way back north. That worked and we remained clear of the cells. The arrival back at Airake (LVN) was uneventful. We thanked God for blessing and for protecting us and for having helped us to complete our mission of prayer-in-the-air over three states. One couldn't help but marvel with awe and ponder with humble gratitude the tremendous power of God as witnessed in the beautiful vistas of His natural creations like storm cells seen from the vantage point of a GA aircraft cockpit. Oh Lord, the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are Yours, now and forever!