



MENTORING...

The world's wisest king once said, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." We often think of that verse in relation to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and such. Yet at heart, no matter our age, we are children; God's children. We still get excited about the little and simple things—digging in the dirt, playing in the water, dolls or figurines, cars, trains, and of course, if you're like us at AWA—planes.

I'll never get tired of planes or watching my husband fix them. Planes are so cool. When the team went to the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI, it was a special privilege. There's an air show every day from paragliders, to biplanes, acrobatic planes, warbirds and military jets. It can bring out the kid in you, for sure. We weren't there

this year just to be kids, that was just a perk, but to "play nice in the sandbox" with other vendors, Christian missionary aviation groups, and above all, to meet our donors and supporters. Our hope was to meet people like you and others who are looking for a way to serve and be involved with God's work.

The AWA team and I were ready for the week and hopeful for what would come our way. God's special training for me at this event I didn't see coming. He had some big girls' shoes for me to step into, and these weren't my normal big girl shoes of size 12. God saw it was time to further train me up in the way He needed me to go towards fully being the executive secretary of His ministry.

Apart from my regular duties of managing arrangements for the team in advance, I was to oversee daily schedules, breaks for food, and breaks for fun as



some of the team had never attended EAA before. God started my week out with a bang. “You’re in charge, Rebah,” Pastor Ric announced. Shortly thereafter he then challenged me to meet with some of the women of MASA (*Missionary Aviation Services Association*) to glean their leadership experience and wisdom.

I was to pick out about 5 or so that were strong leaders and meet with at least 3 or more. The first lady I met with, Debbie, was a very strong woman and leader; she reminded me so much of my late grandmother. The second I met her was a little intimidating. I found that it was intimidating only because I needed to get to know Joyce. What a blessing she was to talk to and glean leadership tips and approaches to service. I learned from her that many of the women had been watching me and were all seeing growth in me through the week. That was a humbling revelation.

The last lady I was able to meet with, Jo, scared me the most, but truly what a sweet woman she was! She was an incredibly strong woman. I still have the notes from that conversation. Jo, for years had managed nearly everything about the MASA organization, orchestrating all things to make their service to the mission organizations there at EAA a wonderful experience. People were coming to her with questions and problems even while we chatted. I got to see her in action, and wow! That was what God was training me for right then.

The women of the MASA tent poured the love of Jesus on me all week. I have never experienced strong women mentoring me before—collectively—or known the need to become the leader God is calling me to be. I was encouraged growing up, but never mentored. I count the learning experience this year at EAA a blessing like no other!

Thank you for being a part of our ministry work via your prayers and financial support.

Until next month!
The Stevenson Family

