



MASTER EDUCATION CENTRE INSPIRATIONAL TALK 4TH JULY 2015



Captain Emma Mwangi's story

At first glance her story sounds simple and straight forward. When she says she has been working with Kenya Airways for the last 10 years, it seems impossible given her age and stature. Emma Mwangi is a Captain on the Boeing 737-800 aircraft that has capacity to fly up to 174 passengers during a flight. She graduated from secondary school in 2003 at age 18 then proceeded to flying school the following year.

She took to the skies on May 3rd 2004 for her first flight alone. She was 19 years old, an accomplishment she cherishes dearly! That is when her adventure in the blue skies began. This is her story.

Her father, Captain Paul Mwangi was born in Kirinyaga County and wore his first pair of shoes in form one. His elder brother, a teacher, paid his school fees since his parents could not afford it. He went on to study at Alliance high School, all the while holding strong to the faith that one day he would take to the skies. Undeterred, he went to The University of Nairobi to study Engineering.

One year later, his friend came across a newspaper advertisement for a scholarship in piloting. The scholarship would be paid for by the family of Mr. Bruce McKenzie who was a cabinet minister in Kenya's first government.

He and his friend applied and were successfully selected from a pool of 3,000 applicants. He went to train as a pilot in the US and joined East Africa Airways which was later renamed Kenya Airways. He is now a Capt. on the Boeing 777-200 and the Director Flight Operations. Interestingly, Captain Emma's father is also her boss at work!



Her entry into the flying career at Kenya Airways is the fruit of her dreams, persistence, faith and determination.

What can we learn from her father?

What is different about her father's journey that later bore fruit to her own successful journey?

1. The future is inside you, not ahead of you.

Captain Emma was **not** born a pilot.

She was born Emma, a child with a dream **just like YOU!**

Becoming a Captain is the path she chose for herself. It all begins within us. We are born with everything that we need to live a complete fulfilled life.

God created the stars with each of them shining in the sky. I believe God also put a star in us, putting us on earth fully loaded and equipped. Nothing and no one can dim the light that shines from within. A star has no choice but to shine, because that is the way it was created. In the same way we must always remember that God sees us as whole and worthy children, He values us, He believes in us.... Why should we think any different of ourselves?

It is your time to shine.



How do we activate this star that He put in us? How do we make it shine?



2. ...By changing our thoughts.

Our thoughts are like seeds, they determine the tree that we will grow to be. Now is when you sow the seeds of the results you want. If you want to be a large, towering strong tree (destiny), you need to plant the right seeds (thoughts).

Let us train ourselves to think positive thoughts so that later you enjoy a positive outcome and attain our dreams. The Holy Bible instructs us to fix our minds on those things which are true, which are noble, which are right, which are lovely, which are admirable, which are excellent and which are praiseworthy.

You must be the Master of your thoughts. Your thoughts become actions which become habits that define your character and finally determine your destiny.

So now that you have positive thoughts, how do you influence your actions?



3. Pilot your plane.

This is by doing the right thing because you want to. You have to be your own source of motivation to do the right thing, and not because your parents or your teachers are watching. That is how you activate the star within you. To be a responsible adult you start by being a responsible boy or girl. Teach yourself to be deliberate about your actions, read because you know it's good for you. Wake up early so you can have an organized and enjoyable day. When you mature, there will not be anyone there to tell you what to do and instruct you. So if you are not getting your desired results – figure it out and do something about it.

Chart the course of your plane to land at your desired destination.

4. You are your own competition.

The principle is self-improvement, being better than you were the day before. When you compete against yourself each day you will become the best version of you. You will become the true you that God intended when he created you.

What is more amazing is that when you improve yourself it is to God's glory because the star He put inside you will be shining.

Whilst in Form Four, Captain Emma was not doing well in her Mathematics. In her Mock exams in July, she actually scored a D+.

It was at this point that she realized her dream of becoming a pilot was in danger of not being realized. However her desire was too strong, she knew and believed that there was a chance, the future was within her!

Instead of losing hope, she chose to see herself how God sees her... as **A star**.

She changed her thoughts and believed she was a star! She focused on the positive thoughts that she would pass the exam. She mastered her thoughts.

She asked herself what she could do differently. She assessed where she had made wrong choices and believed it was possible to soar, despite one of her teacher's telling her the best grade she could score was a C+.

She prayed and asked God to strengthen her. She chose to be the Captain of her plane and take responsibility for her choices.

"IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM, START NOW", Captain Emma.



PRACTISE, PRACTISE, PRACTISE!!!

Emma concentrated very hard for the next 3 months. She would do a mathematics exam every day to practice.

"I would not allow the sun to set without me doing a Maths paper" says Emma.

God rewarded her effort and commitment and **she scored an A.**

She did her best by focusing and at last, she attained her desired goal.

P.I.L.O.T Principles for soaring above the clouds

Purpose and Present

There is a difference between living and thriving. You make a decision to forge ahead and live in the present. Forgive yourself for the bad choices made in the past. Decide instead to look ahead and press on toward the goal, to win the prize that God has called you to.

I and myself

You are responsible of yourself. Affirm yourself. For example; I am responsible, I am good enough. I am organized. I am smart. I am obedient. Make sure you are better today than you were yesterday. Seek to grow.

Learn

Be inquisitive and never stop learning. The expert in anything was once a beginner.

Other people

Life is not about INDEPENDENCE, It is about INTERDEPENDENCE. Build relationships with other people and walk together in attaining your desired outcome, because **Together Each Achieves More.**

Thoughts

Your life is a print out of your thoughts. You are what you think. Watch your thoughts as they will become your words. Watch your words as they will become your actions. Watch your actions as they will become your habits. Watch your habits as they will become your character. Watch your character as it will become your destiny.

