


***What one human invention do you believe has had the most significant impact on the present and why?***

A blanket of peace surrounded me; broken only by the occasional rustling caused by a fellow passenger. I stretched lazily and yawned, pushing aside the fleece blanket covering my legs. "Hmm," I mumbled to myself, "I wonder what time it is?" I shifted upright in my seat, taking care not to disturb my peacefully sleeping seat partner, and pushed up my window shade. The view that met my sleep-crusted eyes was breathtaking. Billowing, towering clouds stretched as far as the eye could see. They beckoned me to dance in their cushiony softness, and to fly like an angel through their whiteness. Each cloud was tinged with beautiful pinks and gold, a gift from the rising sun. I sat unmoving, not wanting to miss any part of this beautiful picture. Finally, I sat back and rested my head against the seat back, letting my mind wander at will. I was on board a huge jet that was zooming its way across the Pacific Ocean; destination: Australia. This wasn't the first time I had flown before, and it probably wouldn't be the last, but each time I was struck with wonder at the huge contraptions we call airplanes. Not only did it amaze me that such a heavy object could soar so effortlessly but I was also intrigued at huge part flight plays in today's world.

Earlier that day as I had sat in the LA airport I had watched with interest the many people passing me by. There were the business men marching smartly along in their starched suits, cell phones glued to their ears. Beside them scurried a harried mom and dad struggling to keep their spirited kids in order. On the other side of the corridor strolled a couple obviously on vacation; their laidback, casual attitude a sharp contrast to the military men that passed them in the opposite direction. Hundreds of people in all shapes and sizes, rich and poor, moved past me, intent on catching their next flight.

I stood up from my seat in the airplane and stumbled past my now-awakening



seatmate as I made for the restrooms. Lurching down the narrow aisle toward the rear of the plane I continued to let my mind wander.

*Flight has to be one of the most significant inventions man has ever achieved,* I thought. I grinned slightly to myself, I mean, just think where we'd be without it! Not only does it make it infinitely easier to travel overseas but without flight many of our charity and mission programs would be worthless. Flight is also essential to our fast-paced economy, without it many businesses could buckle and go bankrupt. Goods and products of all kinds are shipped throughout the world in order to boost our steadily growing economy.

I, myself, was on this plane with 14 other teens and three leaders on a two-month summer mission trip. Without flight we would have either been confined to the US or forced to travel painstakingly slower on a boat. Flight has been used in many unique ways to further God's kingdom here on earth.

The plane jerked slightly in its path through the sky, sending me bumping awkwardly against a nearby seat. A fellow teammate of mine looked up from his journal and laughed at my clumsy progress; I grinned back and spent a few moments in lighthearted joking before continuing on my way.

Once back at my seat I collapsed down on it with a sigh, looking once more out the small window. Resting my chin on my hand I smiled slightly and let my heart soar with clouds outside. *Thank You, God,* I thought to myself, *for giving us the gift of flight.*