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# Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

## With a Grateful Spirit, AWA Continues to Serve



FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

*Happy Holidays!*

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Adventist World Aviation exists to provide aviation and communications support to those serving the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the unreached and forgotten peoples of the earth.

## ADVENTIST WORLD AVATION

is a 501(c)3 nonprofit missionary-sending agency. Funded by private contributions, AWA enables missionaries to reach the unreached around the world.

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## PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

# Looking for the Blessed Hope

**I**t was early April 2011. My widowed mother came to Houston, Texas to visit. I was the Senior Pastor of a dynamic church in a posh community of Woodlands, Texas. This church was built on evangelism, which was exciting to me. In fact, during my short tenure at this church, the members insisted on an aggressive evangelism program. They wanted



80% of the entire church budget to go for evangelism outreach. As an evangelist, I was like a kid in a candy store! However, my business sense kicked into gear. The church conducted a business meeting where more than 75% of the church members attended. I have never seen such enthusiasm! I told them, "As much as I would love to use 80% of the church budget for evangelism, it's not realistic. We need to operate the church."

After much discussion, we voted to permanently assign 40% of the church budget for evangelism outreach; it

would always remain in the churches DNA structure—unchangeable. This vote was passed unanimously. The the Woodlands Seventh-day Adventist Church was set to journey into the future with one mission—KINGDOM GROWTH!

"Wow," I thought. "Mom would be so happy!"

My mother had been the wife of an evangelist. She had soul winning in her blood.

When she arrived for her visit in April 2011, and heard this news, she said, "Son, I simply couldn't be more proud of you."

That night I received a call from my friend, Charlene West. She informed me about an open position at *Quiet Hour Ministries*. They were looking for a president. Consequently, my name ended up on the list of potential candidates. I thought, "Oh, my!" My response was to pray, and together, my mother and I prayed all afternoon.

A few days later my phone rang again.

"Hello," I said.

"Hi, Ric," said Michael Porter, who was the CEO of *Quiet Hour Ministries* at the time. "I understand you are on a list for potential candidates for presidency at *Quiet Hour Ministries*. I am on the board of directors at *Adventist World Aviation* and we are also looking for



a president. Is this something you would also consider?"

"Oh my goodness," I thought. "What is going on here?"

All three institutions—Woodlands SDA Church, *Quiet Hour Ministries*, and *Adventist World Aviation*—have the passion for outreach and saving lives. The church had just firmly committed to an outreach program. *Quiet Hour Ministries* was all about outreach. AWA's mission is to "Reach the Unreached."

When I told my mother, she said, "WOW! I only came here to visit you and I am scheduled to fly back home in less than ten days. We need to commit these next few days in prayer. You have some huge choices to make: (1) Stay with the Texas Conference in church growth, with an extremely positive church of outreach; (2) Consider being on the list for the call to *Quiet Hour Ministries*; (3) Become president for *Adventist World Aviation*. We prayed!

My mother was very instrumental in my pilot training. As a child I had always wanted to fly. As a boy one of my favorite toys was my little red pedal airplane. Before my dad became an evangelist, he was a truck driver and in the early 60's they wore uniforms, which looked much like the WWII B-17 pilots. His uniform even included a hat and "driver's wings." My father would let me wear his hat and I would zoom around the yard thinking that one day I would fly.

That reality never happened until 40 years later, in 2004. My father had just passed away in 2003. I had lost my best friend and I was profoundly sad. My mother was trying to cheer me up. She said, "Didn't you just baptize a CFI and CFII (certified flight instructor)?"

I said, "Yes, Noel Clark."

My mother also reminded me of the little red airplane, and said, "Go learn to fly. Do it in honor of your father. He would have been so proud of you."

My mother had a way of pulling me out of any sadness I was in and blend it with a positive memory of the thing that was making me sad.

That was so healing! I called and asked Noel if she would be willing to train me. She said, "Only if you commit!"

I committed to it and never looked back.

By the time I was pastoring in Texas, I had been a qualified pilot for almost eight years. I used aviation in outreach and also involved the youth in a better way to get high. I worked with the local flight school and tried to enroll as many as possible from the youth of our church into flight programs. Somehow AWA caught "wind" of this flying pastor/evangelist.

As my mother and I were discussing my choices, she said, "God has laid something very special at your doorstep and he has given you choices." She also said, "Son, remember the other day I said I couldn't be more proud of you? Well, I was wrong. You just made me even prouder."

I said, "Thank you, mom. I love you!"

So, I made the decision.

On May 1, 2011, my mother's birthday, I received the official call from Thomas Chapman, one of the board members for *Adventist World Aviation*. So, in honor of her birthday, I accepted the call. Later that night, we celebrated her birthday. She was proud to be the mother of the new

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# The Flight Plan

## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Is it sometimes hard to feel thankful? Are you just feeling kind of blah about life? I think we all get that feeling a time or two.

What helps me is to think of those who might be in worse conditions? Recently, when Hurricane Matthew hit the country of Haiti, I cried. I saw the pictures of the poor children, homeless and without food. I saw pictures of the parents with distress and sadness on their faces and in their eyes, wondering, “What’s next?” As I saw the news about this tragedy, I realized that not to be grateful always, even when things weren’t going my way, was ungodly and totally selfish.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Our prayer is that during the upcoming seasons of Thanksgiving and the Christmas celebration of the hope Jesus gave us by coming to this earth as a baby, we each become more grateful and give to help others.

## INTRODUCING NEW AWA TEAM MEMBERS

We are pleased to introduce new *Adventist World Aviation* team members, Francisco and Iyise Victoria Alvarez, whose skills and talents will be a great benefit



Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Alvarez with Nancy Hansen

to our ministry.

Iyise Victoria Alvarez was born in Bluefields, Nicaragua in 1958, in the Atlantic area; Francisco was born in Leon, Nicaragua in the Pacific area. Iyise became a Christian

at the age of 14 in the Pentecostal church. At the age

of 19, Iyise met Francisco, and he introduced her to the Seventh-day Adventist message with Bible studies. She was baptized into the church in 1972. Since then, they have worked as literature evangelists and laymen. In 1986 they immigrated to Canada and continued working as literature evangelists and laymen.

In 2004, Iyise and Francisco moved back to Nicaragua and started a personal ministry program to help the people, providing secondhand clothing, reading glasses, wheelchair, shoes, food, Bibles, and medical assistance, if possible. They have always felt God’s call to help others, and they are continuing their mission service with *Adventist World Aviation* by joining our Nicaragua team.

## OFF THE GRID

Have you had the opportunity to watch “*Off the Grid?*” These are mission stories and project updates that you will thoroughly enjoy, produced by AWA’s videographer, Gloria Tokics Murphy. Each episode can be viewed on 3ABN at 1 PM Central Time.

## Bad Alternator

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXqVDAtEKWE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXqVDAtEKWE)

*Adventist World Aviation* has mission outposts stationed all around the world with the mission of bringing humanitarian aid and the love of Jesus, to hard to reach areas. Often the missionaries keep very busy flying medevac flights, delivering critically ill patients from remote jungles to a place where they can receive a higher level of care. These flights are not only lifesaving, but they share the love of Jesus and bring hope to the hopeless. Situated in the northeastern corner of Nicaragua is one of *Adventist World Aviation*’s outposts where Clint Hanley and his family dedicate their lives to serving the local Miskito Indians. This aviation mission base must remain operational at all times. The mission





plane provides life saving flights and it is essential that it stays fully operational. In this episode, Clint discovers the mission plane is not generating the power it needed to charge components required for communications and navigation. This busy aviation base cannot allow the mission plane to remain down for maintenance for long. Unfortunately, replacement parts are not available and Clint must quickly find a solution to repair the plane in a remote jungle setting.

### Women Medevac

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=v55BrgME0Ok](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v55BrgME0Ok)

Travel in the remote northeastern part of Nicaragua is extremely difficult. Road systems were never fully developed in this region. There are only a few roads that wind through the jungle and they are in terrible condition. Land travel can be very dangerous. In this episode, a young women is crushed under a cargo bus and is on the brink of death. She needs to reach a hospital that is a six-hour drive away. Because of her fragile condition, she will not survive the dangerous journey by ground. *Adventist World Aviation* pilot Clint Hanley transports the patient by air in under one hour's time. She is able to quickly be delivered to the hospital that can save her life.



### Day in the Life of a Missionary

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2brXfuL3zu0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2brXfuL3zu0)

A life of a missionary in the remote rural jungle is not an easy one. The Hanley family has lived in La Trunquera in the northeastern part of Nicaragua for 10 years. During that time, their ministry has evolved into a multi-faceted aviation project that ministers to the indigenous Miskito people. Aviation humanitarian aid is a large majority of the work this project does here. There are no safe road systems, from the thick jungles from Puerto Cabezas where the closest hospital equipped to handle critical injuries is located. Clint is a pilot and offers medevac



flights to all the neighboring villages to transport patients to a higher level of medical care. Currently, this project is the only humanitarian aviation support in the entire country. There are no other aviation projects to help the people in Nicaragua. Each day is uniquely different in the Nicaraguan mission field. The Hanleys' never run out of projects and always find new ways to show the Miskito people the love of Christ.

### AMAZON SMILE / EBAY

As you consider what gifts to give during this season of giving and where to purchase your gifts, consider Amazon and eBay. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products. Same price. Same service. Support AWA by starting your shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3242404>.

For eBay, click on <http://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/my-causes>, which takes you to eBay's charity page. Then, select *Adventist World Aviation*.

### STAY CONNECTED

Have you been to our website lately? We invite you to log on at [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org) and read new and exciting mission stories and view the videos. Stay connected with AWA through Twitter and Facebook! On Twitter find us at @adventistworld and on Facebook by searching *Adventist World Aviation* or AWA. Please check us out and "FRIENDS" and "LIKE" us!

Charlene West is project development and evangelism director for AWA.





# Meeting the Needs in Selawik



Two young boys who received educational and spiritual help from the Chancy's.

**A**fter five months serving in Guyana, South America, and a short stay at home, *Adventist World Aviation* sent us to Selawik, Alaska for a short time.

Selawik is a small village in Northwest Alaska. The population is approximately 800 people, with 58% under the age of 30.

Our mission in Selawik was to mingle with the people, sympathize with them, minister to their needs, and bid them accept a restored life through Jesus Christ. Because the people were very friendly and open to us, our challenge was easy. We identified their needs early on, and God led us to minister to them. One of their bad habits is alcoholism, and we conducted a 12-step addiction program for many of them.

Also, three days a week we visited the church members in their homes to give the families an opportunity to share in singing, scripture reading, and prayer. The people love to sing, and enjoyed our visits and were learning how to read their Bibles and to develop a relationship with God.

There is an astounding high school dropout rate in this region of Alaska. Therefore, I was pleased to be recruited by the local counseling office, NANA, to help those who wanted to complete their high

school education and then apply for job training and scholarships. It was a tremendous blessing to me to be able to assist the young people and witness their departure from Selawik to Kotzebue to prepare for a new future.

Can you imagine taking a walk and having someone come up to you and ask you to pray for them? That's what began to happen with us as we were walking around the village. Many people, young and old, stopped us and said, "Will you pray with us?" Many times, we would stop and pray with them right there on the spot. Several times, those who stopped us were intoxicated. We still prayed for them and invited them to the addiction program.

God helped us to be accepted by the village of Selawik, into their everyday life. We made lasting relationships that we will continue to nurture. God's work is reaching the people of Selawik through your prayers and financial contributions.

Vonzell and Gwen Chancy are missionaries in Alaska, doing community outreach for AWA.





# Bible Message Shared in Kotzebue



Pastor Noel Wilton standing outside Episcopal Church where meetings were held.

**P**astor Noel Wilton, from Petersburg, Alaska, has been the guest speaker for the two-week Bible seminar in Kotzebue, Alaska, which is located 35 miles north of the Arctic Circle in northwest Alaska. This series is sponsored by the local Seventh-day Adventist group, Northwestern Aviation, *Adventist World Aviation*, and by Jim and Linda Kincaid.

The series started on Friday evening, October 14, 2016 in the Episcopal Church, who graciously allowed us to use their building.

On the first night, a total of 20 people attended, including seven visitors, and we have been praising God for this. This is the first public meeting on Bible topics offered in Kotzebue, Alaska, in more than 20 years.

Jim and Linda Kincaid, both pilots living in Kotzebue, Alaska, have served more than 36 years in various capacities, including pastor and church administrator, native missions, commercial aviation, and aircraft maintenance.







# Heaven Rejoices in Baptism

Michael (right) with Raylene Espinosa  
on the Sabbath of his baptism.



**T**he people in the Malgalso family are not only our neighbors, three rice patties away, but also our fellow church family, and our friends. We've always appreciated their full commitment in the church, and their whole family is always actively involved. Nine years ago, the family was baptized.

When their daughter, Cecil, went to the university to study education, she met and fell in love with Michael. The problem was that Michael wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist, and she was aware of the difficulties of marrying someone without the same beliefs. She prayed about this a lot.

Eventually, Michael started going to church with her and started joining in more of the church and family activities. The day came when he knew he had to make a decision; he wanted to learn more. He came to me and asked if I could give him Bible studies. I was jubilant to do so!





The district pastor praying for those who were baptized.

He came every night, and we studied together. After studying, we'd have fun, and eat treats that my wife, Raylene, had made while we were studying. One day he decided that he wanted to commit to Jesus fully.

An opportunity soon came when a pastor was in our area, holding evangelistic seminars, and was happy to baptize Michael. On Sabbath afternoon, after church services, we had a potluck with the surrounding church families who were supporting the seminars. With full bellies and happy hearts, we all walked about a half kilometer, down to the river, where the pastor baptized seven people. Cecil was beaming with happiness after Michael's baptism. We were ALL excited!

The Bible tells us that all the angels in heaven sing when a person accepts Jesus. I'm sure they were singing with us as we stood on the river while they were all baptized. Please continue to pray for Michael and his new walk with God.



The Espinosa Family—Edgar, Raylene, Edrei, and Earyl. Pastor Edgar is the airbase attendant for AWA in Palawan, Philippines







# Our First Nine Months in the Philippines ... to Be Continued ...

**T**his has been an amazing year!

When we arrived in February 2016, as we would walk to the construction site, dust would puff up around our filthy, concrete-stained sneakers, kind of like walking on the moon. Now with the rains, mud squishes up and oozes between our sandals and toes.

We've started a garden! It hasn't been a huge success yet, but we are trying and learning. We've also planted several trees around the property that are thriving on all the rain we are now getting. The house is still going up, bit-by-bit, but with steady progress, as funds come in.

Because of Philippine immigration requirements, we have to leave the country every nine months. Thus we are headed home November 8, which coincides with the AWA annual director's meeting which is being held in British Columbia. Since we knew we would be returning to the United States after nine months, it made packing a bit easier. It allowed us to get a "lay of the land" for the first nine months, and then when we returned, go armed with an understanding of what the needs are here.

We've learned a LOT in the time we've been here! We've not only learned how to tie rebar (an important life skill) but also how to cook some of the local dishes. We've learned a lot about local traditions, and culture.

We continue to learn as much of the language, Tagalog, as we can. And, yes, we still continue to make fools of ourselves as we stumble over words, and use them wrongly. They have the same spelling for the words "squash" (a long green vegetable), "sit" and "yes" (the form of "yes" that you'd use for respect to someone). The only difference is the intonation. I'm scared that one day I will either call a sweet old lady a "squash," or tell a vendor I'd like a "sit" instead of a squash! Everyone is very patient, though, and we are grateful.

We recently had 200 college and university students on the AWA property. They arrived Friday night, in the rain. It took some of them more than four hours to arrive. They are part of a group called AMiCUS, which is an organization for Adventist students in public colleges and universities. Previously, the local chapter held a get-together on our property; this time, we had students from all chapters from northern to southern Palawan. We are ideally located in the center. It was the first time that all chapters could gather at once because they have never been able to find anyone with enough land that could accommodate them all. We were SO happy to be able to be part of that. They bravely pitched their tents in the dark and rain. On Sabbath and Sunday, they gathered to listen to speakers whose topic was about "identity," and how it related to





Youth having social time together.



Construction progress on LaBore's home.

their identity with others, the church, and God.

We look forward to our return from furlough, as we expect to be seeing even bigger changes than we did this year. The plan is to finish the house so we can move out of the Kubo (hut), and finally, unpack. We have been living out of suitcases since we got here, and often have to go to storage to rummage in our boxes to find things. It's a huge time-consumer, no matter how well we organize and clean. We also plan for the airstrip to be finished, and the airplane to arrive. The Pathfinder plane is in the United States

now, getting a new paint-job, and other fixes. It also has a newly overhauled engine. It will be exciting to finally get a birds-eye view of where we live!

We wanted to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who stepped forward with additional donations so we could continue the work on the house. There were times we had to let workers go, but were always able to operate with at least a skeleton crew. It's because of you the work went on, and we are SO grateful. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to build up the project here.

Maraming Salamat Po! Thank you very much!  
(Without the "squash.")



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The LaBore Family—Bill (project manager) and Laura (pilot and nurse), with their two children, Micah and Danielle, are now serving in the Philippines.



## HELP WANTED



You don't need to be a pilot to be a mission worker for *Adventist World Aviation*. Mission pilots and other missionaries are urgently needed. Do you have a desire to share Jesus with others, to live in another country and learn a different culture? *Adventist World Aviation* is expanding into other parts of the world and urgently needs pilots, A&P mechanics, A&P inspection authorities, certified flight instructors (CFI), project managers, Bible workers, and medical personnel. Pilots must have instrument ratings, commercial ratings, and high performance ratings.

Anyone interested should also have a strong desire to share the message of Jesus. Please send resume to Adventist World Aviation, 3457 Swift Creek Road, Smithfield, NC 27577, or by e-mail to [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org).



# Letting God Lead Us



Artur taking off in plane.

**H**aving spent the first few months as missionaries in the remote Miskito region of northeastern Nicaragua, I can look back and see how God has led. He gave me the great opportunity of flying in wildlife conservation in the past to get prepared for this kind of work.

Working as a conservation pilot was very exciting.



Artur Karst preparing plane for flight.

I was able to fly in some of the most remote national parks, supporting the anti-poaching efforts in central Africa, seeing so much of the beauty of His creation. I loved working in wildlife conservation, but always with the thought in the back of my mind of getting better equipped for actual mission flying and saving a

human life for whom Christ died.

One thing that caught my attention, ever since coming down to Nicaragua to serve those in need, is the big difference compared with wildlife conservation: why is it so much easier to raise funds for endangered animals, but sometimes seems so much harder to raise money to save human life? In wildlife conservation we had millions being donated, here we're struggling with the day-to-day expenses. It made me think a lot about it. God has given us all a special responsibility.

Jesus himself said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

I know that we do serve a God with infinite resources. He can and will finish the soul-saving work on this planet, but He chooses to use us.

"Christ calls for the human agents to cooperate with the divine agencies in saving the world. Not one is to feel that he can use his time as he chooses. Heavenly requirements are not to be ignored." – {RH January 11, 1898, Par. 7}

Even though I had the opportunity of staying in wildlife conservation, doing what I love, with all expenses paid, my wife and I decided to follow Jesus. The question now is, will you allow Him to use you in His work?

Artur and Margarita Karst, from Germany, are serving with AWA in Nicaragua. Artur is one of AWA's pilots and Margarita helps with community outreach to bring people to Jesus.







# Giving Thanks to God for the Simplest Things

**W**henever we begin thinking about things to be thankful for, it isn't difficult to come up with quite a list. I am sure each one of us can agree about this. However, sometimes certain situations cause us to focus more on thankfulness than in other circumstances, such as living in the bush in a foreign land as frontier missionaries.

In Nicaragua, we have left many of the comforts that we once enjoyed in our home in Michigan. When we compare life in Nicaragua with life in Michigan, we indeed become grateful for the things which we once took for granted.

One important thing which we are so grateful for is RAIN! We depend on the rain for our basic water needs. Having no rain translates into many difficulties, and I do not mean just dry ground and wildfires. Rain provides us with drinking water and allows us to have water for showers, to do dishes, as well as laundry.

And when it doesn't rain, we give thanks for the little creek which flows just a stone's throw from our home. This stream allows us to do laundry, bathe, wash our dishes, and cool down even when it doesn't rain for some time, and the filtering provides drinking water. If our homemade hydro generator is working it can even provide a small amount of electrical power.

When we have the sunshine and no rain, we are also being blessed. The sunlight in combination with our little solar system provides much needed and useful electrical power. The panels turn sun energy into electrical energy, and the batteries store the power. We thank God for the sunshine which powers our lights, small chest coolers, and small electronic devices like computers and phones.

We are also grateful to YOU, our friends, family,



Using a bucket as protection from the rain.

and church family. Without you, our mission service in Nicaragua would not be possible. You are the backbone of this mission; it would not be possible if you had not chosen to store up your treasures in heaven, to sacrifice a small portion of the blessings.

We also praise God and give thanks for our new Nicaraguan friends. They have been so helpful in so many ways—watching over our home when we are gone, fixing broken vehicles, and helping us learn the language. Their friendship and kindness have blessed us.

We are learning that our existence is a delicate balance of God's blessings, details which many take for granted and act as if God has no part in it. We are entirely dependent on God, and this has become very clear. It is God who provides our needs either through the sunshine, rain, and creeks or by impressing the hearts of others to participate as prayer partners or by financial support.

Dennis and Dayana Kaboos and family (teachers from Michigan) are beginning their AWA mission service in Nicaragua.





# Friendship Evangelism

**W**e first met Kimmie in Mabaruma where she lived with her father. Initially, she started a friendship with Gwen Chancy, an AWA missionary who deployed to Alaska with her husband, Vonzell. Kimmie and Gwen began studying *Steps to Christ* together. Eventually, Kimmie opened up to Gwen about her desire to learn more about God. However, after two months, Kimmie moved to Georgetown to live with her mother, sisters, and grandmother. Kimmie and Gwen's friendship continued even after the move, and they agreed that a Christian education would benefit Kimmie. The Chancy's were then able to find sponsors for Kimmie to attend Josel, a private school operated by Seventh-day Adventists.

Kimmie's time at Josel was full of distractions

because of her dysfunctional, unstable home life. At the end of the school year, she decided not to return because she was displaced again due to the death of her grandmother. Because of a domestic disagreement with an uncle who owned the house they lived in, her mother was placed in jail. Kimmie moved in with her older sister, who has two children, a two-year-old boy, and a two-month-old baby. She moved to Kuru-Kururu which is about one hour away from Georgetown city limits. Meanwhile, her mother and younger sister moved in with her aunt.

Kimmie, now 17 years old, plans to work to ensure her younger sister finishes high school and to help fund the building of a house for her mother. Her plan also includes completing her high school program and trade





school after her younger sister graduates from secondary school, finds a job, and helps in supporting their mother. Kimmie is a very caring, loving daughter and sister; she puts everyone's needs ahead of her own.

The Chancy's, who are now in the United States, continued their friendship with Kimmie but found it difficult to keep in touch due to phone connectivity issues and the lack of internet access. When we visited her upon the request of the Chancy's, we felt impressed to continue the friendship and the mentoring of this young woman. She had matured after her brief education at Josel's. Praise the Lord! She is more articulate and confident. But, we feel she is caught between a proverbial rock and a hard place, such as her loyalty to her family versus her own development as a young lady. We have prayed and decided to continue the Bible studies with her and guide her in her quest for a Christian life. She loves to read, and she desires the unconditional love of another. We know a closer walk can only fill the love she desires with Jesus.

Eventually, Kimmie called us and relayed that she has decided to take our council to continue her high



Monique Wilkerson with Kimmie

school education by moving back to Mabaruma and live with her father. She realized that to help her mother she must complete her secondary schooling.

Sometimes all it takes to help a hurting soul is to be a friend. One can see Jesus by just being there and showing kindness. In James 1:27 it states, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their

trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

As a 50-something-year-old missionary couple, living for the past 16 months in another country, we know this is where the Lord is leading because, through His people throughout the United States, we receive our affirmation. Thank you for being there for us, for being our partners, our supporters. Therefore, we march onward, forward, following where He leads!

Bruce and Monique Wilkerson are project managers for the Guyana project.



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# Keep 'em Flying

**I**t was about a year ago I arrived in Arizona to serve with AWA at Thunderbird. The months have flown by, and we are already working with a new group of young people in the ground school this semester; some of them with sights on mission aviation service in their future. This past year has brought some triumphs and challenges, but we are pressing forward. The Lord will lead as He sees fit.

What has stuck with me for the last several months is how much these young people have matured and grown. It's been wonderful to observe their journey. They are a great group of students. Not only are



Nik Nagy working on one of the planes.

we trying to prepare students for their entrance into the world of aviation, but we also hope that we are setting some foundations for assisting them in preparing to be godly professionals in whatever path they choose, and preparing them for the ultimate trip to our heavenly home with Jesus. That's the core reason we are here. Whether we are overseas or here working a homeland mission, our purpose and ultimate goal are the same.

At this time of year, we are especially reminded of the many blessings we have. Our program

Dina and Eben beginning flight training.







Academy Day at Thunderbird Academy.



Ground school class.

receives support and is blessed with many friends like you. Some volunteer their time and talents; some keep our program in prayer, and others give financial assistance to help our young people accomplish their dreams. We are very grateful for each one of these friends.

Speaking of blessings, we are flying with satellite tracking now for our plane. Also, through generous donations, we are using the aircraft traffic reporting capability with the ADS-B in/out equipment installed this spring. This is great because it gives us an added layer of safety. Students are currently using donated books and supplies from the Jeppesen Company. Whenever possible, expenses are minimized for students in the program.

If you'd like to keep up with what's happening at AWA-Thunderbird, you can find us on Facebook at Thunderbird Adventist Academy Aviation. We wish you the gift of family and peace during this coming holiday season.



Left: Robbie, one of the aviation students and his exam, which he passed. Right: Elijah, who received an aviation scholarship.



Ron LeDuc giving a presentation to the aviation students.

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Dina Simmons is Flight director and CFI/CFII/MEI and A&P for the aviation program at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.



AWA pilot Darren Lea takes delivery of the Nicaragua bound Cessna 182 from *Wings Of Hope* President Don Hamblen.

## “Houston, We Have a Problem.”

**I**t was the subject line of the email from the team in Guyana. Bill Patterson is a volunteer mechanic with *Wings of Hope* in St Louis, Missouri. He was in Guyana helping AWA with the annual inspection on the Cessna 182. Of course, the purpose of inspections is to find any potential or developing issues before they become serious problems. I planned my trip to

that would require replacement before the airplane could return to service. We are familiar with this area of concern, and a close examination of this part is included in every inspection. Additionally, this casting, if even available from Cessna, is very expensive. Used castings are rare and usually require extensive searching throughout North America. Not to be deterred, we decided to check at a used parts provider who was just a few minutes away. We were astonished to hear that their inventory showed it was on the shelf. We went directly there and verified it was the correct part, and we were on our way. The next morning it was safely tucked in my luggage for the flight to Guyana. To find the part so quickly and then for it to be located within ten miles of where we were at that moment was nothing short of a miracle.

Some good news from Guyana is that we are finally getting a hangar after many years of false starts and dead ends. The Wilkerson’s have prepared a site at the Mabaruma airstrip, and the pre-fabricated steel structure is about to ship out for December construction. During the annual inspection, I was very slowly negotiating the enormous potholes while towing the rickety tool trailer to the airport. Bruce Wilkerson commented that this might be the last time we have to do this. Many thanks to Bill Patterson and visiting missionary pilot-in-training, Jörg Tietz, for



Wickwire's with the Sherman's in Shugnak.

Guyana a few days later than Bill so I could bring along any needed parts or pieces. Nik Nagy and I were in Chandler, Arizona, collecting some of the parts when the “Houston ...” email came in.

Bill’s close inspection of a part of the landing gear support called “a casting” revealed a developing crack





Left: Bill Patterson and Jörg Tietz completing the annual inspection in Guyana. Right: Paul Voorhees and Artur Karst working on the annual inspection in Nicaragua.

their many days of hard work in the blistering hot sun getting the annual inspection done.

AWA's Nicaragua project has launched. Artur and Margarita Karst deployed early in the summer to accept the flying responsibilities from the interim pilot, TJ Stewart. Shortly after that, Dennis, Dayana, Angel and Daliana Kaboos arrived to take on the airbase operations. Norman, Nancy, Andrew, Steven, and Melanie Hansen will be arriving later in 2016. However, they have both been very busy with documents and administrative tasks for the transition to AWA operations. A new project always has a host of challenges; we ask for prayers and courage for the entire Nicaragua team.

Simultaneously, as the work was being done in Guyana, in Nicaragua, another *Wings of Hope* mechanic, Paul Voorhees, was hard at work completing the annual inspection on our Cessna 172 there. AWA recently took delivery of a Cessna 182 that will be the second airplane for Nicaragua. The *Wings of Hope* team put lots of work into the necessary modifications for mission service such as a STOL kit, folding seats, and oversize tires and brakes. We expect to deploy the 182 to Nicaragua in early 2017.

In the Philippines, the mission house is coming along. The roof is nearly complete, and a team will be arriving at the beginning of the new year to help with plumbing, electrical, floors, and cabinets. The Pathfinder Plane is being overhauled at *Mission Maintenance Services*, and we are anticipating shipping it in late 2016 or early in 2017. LaBore's have been busy traveling around and identifying isolated airstrips and communities that would benefit from missionary air support.

At Thunderbird Adventist Academy, in Scottsdale, Arizona, flight instruction is underway, under the instruction of Dina Simmons. Nik Nagy and Dina

have been working hard with some of the final permit details for the hangar, as well as developing relationships with the local flying community and the Scottsdale airport authorities.

Karen and I, along with our two boys, spent some time in Alaska this summer with Jim and Linda Kincaid, getting to see the area and villages around Kotzebue. Life north of the Arctic Circle is certainly unique and truly challenging in many ways. We had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Anthony Sherman and his family in Shungnak. It was a trying time for Anthony, as just a couple of days before our visit, a teenager had taken his life, a far too common event in these small communities. Of course, Anthony knew the young man well. As he explained the situation, it became apparent just how challenging and complicated it was. Anthony was faced with the task of visiting other young people who had shown signs that they had considered suicide; he hoped to dissuade them and give them the hope of Jesus. The Sherman's face situations like these several times every year in just their small village alone. His encouragement and counsel is so important and also weighs heavily on his courage and spirit.

Please lift up Anthony and Airen Sherman in your prayers. Our missionary workers often face emotional challenges that we sometimes overlook and with that can come discouragement. Delivering the hope of salvation is a great work but one that requires lots of support. We thank you for being part of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in hard-to-reach areas.

Jud Wickwire serves as AWA's vice-president of operations.



# Looking for the Blessed Hope

—continued from page 3

president of AWA. She lived with Dawn and me the last 5 ½ years of her life, having just turned 81 years old. She still had most of her charm and wit. During the first three years of my presidency with AWA, mother was at the office each day, answering telephones, mailing out receipts and thank you letters, and helping in any way she could. She loved AWA and what it stands for,

my tears for her sake. With a shaky voice I told her, “I love you, too, mom. Everything will be alright. I am here.” We prayed together.

My mother labored on for the next day, holding on for the rest of her family to arrive. Then, when my sister, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were around her, she breathed her last breath and was no longer suffering. To

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“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

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and working in the office.

Then, about five years later, in the morning of Sunday, September 25, 2016, I received a call from the health care center that was caring for my mother. I was told that she was very sick and going into septic shock. I was told that I needed to come there immediately. I made the quick trip to the hospital, where she was placed in the Intensive Care Unit. She was excited to see me.

Through her labored breathing she said, “Ric! I am so happy you are here. I know everything will be okay. Ric, you are my sunshine and have always been my sunshine. I love you so much. I am so thankful for you.”

She also said, “I am afraid I can’t make it out of this illness. But you are here and I am so proud of you.”

I tried everything to hold back

lose someone special is heart breaking. I miss my mom terribly. It breaks my heart to know that I am not able to talk to her daily and to pray with her. As Christians, we know that she is indeed sleeping until Jesus comes, and that’s the only comfort I have in this situation.

A promise from the Bible in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 tells us, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Yes, mother is now sleeping,

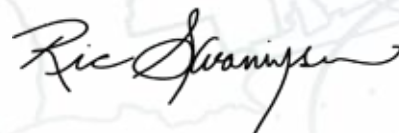
waiting for Jesus to call, “Margo, wake up! Wake up!”

What am I thankful for? My parents, my children, and my first granddaughter. My mother was able to see her newest great granddaughter before she went to sleep in Jesus.

I am also thankful for friends who took their time to train a pastor to fly. I am thankful we have the promise of a coming Saviour to reunite families. I am thankful for the privilege to be the president of *Adventist World Aviation*. I am thankful to YOU, our friends and supporters of *Adventist World Aviation*.

I pray that you have a thankful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).



Pastor Ric Swaningson,  
President/CEO





# Gear Down and Locked



**Y**ou ask, “why an article on retractable gear when we fly fixed-gear aircraft?”

Because it is almost always easier to look at someone else’s mistake and say, “That sure was stupid,” and then think, “I would never do that.”

So, my aim is to get each of us to use this example to scrutinize the way we do things in our departments and operations so we do not make unnecessary mistakes.

## GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED ...

## GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED ...

We often hear that “there are those who have landed wheels up, and there are those who will.”

## GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED ...

Each year, pilots take their expensive, retractable landing gear-equipped aircraft and land with the wheels up. Why does this happen? How can we prevent it?

## WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

Some of the reasons are:

1. Distraction: Pilots flying retractable landing gear aircraft may get distracted and forget to select the landing gear down. By concentrating too much on communicating with ATC or passengers, they forget to fly the aircraft and skip checklist items.

2. Unstabilized/rushed approach: Pilots multitask, fall behind the aircraft and often end up in an unstabilized or rushed approach. They focus on correcting the flight path while dealing with radio communications and traffic, and they forget the retractable gear.

3. Limited flight training in retractable gear operation: Some pilots may not have been taught useful retractable gear operational techniques, such as prioritization of landing gear checklist items or positional imprinting, where pilots select visual or positional markers to remind them to confirm that the gear is down.

## HOW TO PREVENT IT?

1. Always use the checklist: This is self-explanatory. However, aircraft operational tasks and associated checklist items don’t all have the same value. Items

related to retractable gear operations are high priority. If your checklist includes the G.U.M.P.S. mnemonic, remember that the G stands for “gas” and the U stands for “undercarriage”!

2. Always fly a stabilized approach: Pilots who consistently fly stabilized approaches are much less likely to forget critical steps, such as lowering the landing gear. The key to achieve consistency is through practice, repetition and by flying the same stable approach all the time.

3. Always confirm **GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED 3 TIMES**: Confirm a minimum of three times that your retractable landing gear is down and locked. These three times may differ depending on aircraft, checklist, position and situation. This is where you can “imprint” in your mind at least three moments to check the gear. The constant remains to always **CHECK GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED 3 TIMES**.

## WHEN TO GO AROUND?

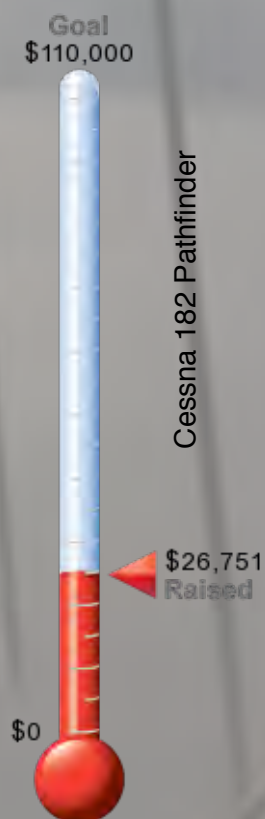
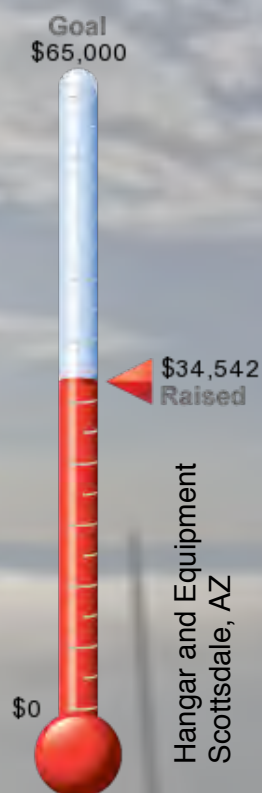
Common guidance is that if you cannot have the aircraft stabilized, properly configured and ready for landing a half-mile back, then you should seriously consider overshooting.

*This article is taken by permission from Transport Canada Aviation Safety Letter TP185E, Issue 2/2014.*

Randy and Karen Ferguson live in Kelowna, BC (Canada). Randy is the safety officer for AWA and audits areas where AWA may be vulnerable and provides resolutions to any safety issues.



# PROJECT NEEDS





# Interest Rate Conundrum

**F**or those who need income from their savings or investments, today's environment has been a bummer. With some countries offering a negative interest rate and our Federal Reserve seeking to hold the rate down, what can one do?

Many banks are offering only a fraction of a percent in interest. I can understand with the governments of the world running up such huge debts, high-interest rates would bankrupt them. But for us poor citizens, we are facing the specter of higher taxes on one end and lower rates of return on the other end.

*Western Adventist Foundation* has some help available. They have a new Revocable Cash Trust program in which one can invest. It has a minimum investment of \$50,000 with a one-year minimum, but it has been returning 4% to 6% interest. They can do this by investing in Trust Deeds. This way they can protect the investments by actually holding deeds to the properties that are being used as collateral by businesses that need to borrow money. To protect themselves and you, they don't loan more than 65% of

the value of the property.

They have options that are very conservative where the value doesn't change or moderate or aggressive options where you have some exposure to the market and the potential of growing your investment. This takes the challenge of what to invest in off your plate and onto theirs.

Of course, "past performance does not guarantee future results." You can have anyone as a final beneficiary including a charity such as AWA, if you wish.

Call for answers to your questions or information on how to take advantage of this opportunity.

Richard Habenicht is AWA's director of development.



To receive a free probate worksheet, or for more information, call our Estate Planning Department at 414.226.5195 or write us at 3457 Swift Creek Road, Smithfield, NC 27577.

## Western Adventist Foundation

Remember AWA is available to help with your estate planning through a will or trust. AWA is partnering with *Western Adventist Foundation* (WAF), a non-profit organization brought into existence to assist Adventist entities by expertly managing their trust services and planned giving programs. The WAF team is committed to the same values and goals on which AWA was founded 20 years ago. Their attorneys, administrators, and caring business professionals have a vision to be an active part of the mission and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including ministries like AWA. For more information, please contact Richard Habenicht, AWA's trust director at 414-226-5195.

## In Memory and In Honor

The many gifts given in memory of a loved one are greatly appreciated by *Adventist World Aviation*. These special gifts help share Jesus with others through our aviation programs. If you wish to honor a loved one through a memorial gift, please indicate so with your donation and provide the individual's name. We will be happy to list your gift in a future *AirWays* magazine.

### In Honor

**Arthur and Nancy Schumacher's Wedding Anniversary**  
Arthur and Nancy Schumacher

### Larry Aldred Sr. (90th Birthday)

Larry and Glenna Aldred

### In Memory

**John and Alta Szasz**  
Deborah J. Szasz

### Earl Mayer

Earl and Doris Mayer  
Marjorie Cole

### David and Justina Peshka

Deborah K. Peshka

### Zig Ziegler

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