



The Official Voice of Adventist World Aviation

# AIRWAYS

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FIRST QUARTER 2016

A close-up portrait of Robert Folkenburg, Sr. He is a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

**A CHAMPION  
FOR MISSION  
AVIATION**

**ROBERT FOLKENBURG, SR.**

**INSIDE: A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FOLKENBURG, P. 2, YOU ARE A CHANNEL OF BLESSINGS, P. 18**



FIRST QUARTER 2016

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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 AVIATION

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:

# A Tribute to Robert Folkenberg, Sr.

As many of you know, we lost a true world leader during the recent holiday season. Elder Robert Folkenberg, Sr., went to sleep on December 24, 2015. Bob, as his friends knew him, is now waiting for the angel's voice to say, "Bob, wake up! Jesus is here! Great is your reward!"

Elder Folkenberg was one of the first persons I called when I was considering the position of president of Adventist World Aviation. We talked for hours about AWA and its history. I wanted to know his vision from the early days

One of Elder Folkenberg's fears are, "If the church stops aviation support, we cannot reach the hard-to-reach! We will lose souls for the Kingdom." Of all people, he understood the great need for aviation support to our church. He encouraged me to take the presidential position at AWA.

Even in his younger years, Folkenberg was an avid pilot. He secured a single- and multi-engine airline transport pilot rating, commercial helicopter and sea rating, and flew more than 2,000 hours, the majority of which were in Central

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## One of Elder Folkenberg's fears are, "If the church stops aviation support, we cannot reach the hard-to-reach."

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of AWA. Bob explained the reasons AWA was needed for the General Conference. He described how the exorbitant insurance costs to the General Conference were making it unreasonable to continue its flight operations. He stated that aviation operations for the Adventist Church were grinding to a halt, foreign mission operations were aging, pilots and aircraft were simply not available, and Adventist-centered aviation flight schools across North America were closing one by one. Fear of loss caused unions and local conferences to discontinue training aviators.

America and the Caribbean. While he was working on his aviation ratings, he was ministering in Central America. Elder Folkenberg couldn't help but see a great need in these areas that hadn't yet been fulfilled. Today Adventist World Aviation operates 18 aircraft in Canada, United States (including Alaska), Philippines, and Guyana, and soon will have aircraft in Nicaragua and Brazil.

Early in his life, Elder Folkenberg realized that mission aviation was a much-needed ministry tool in a large majority of the world. While working in Honduras in 1970, he found it incredibly difficult to reach some people simply



because they lived remotely. Because of this, Folkenberg felt that without air transportation, he could not properly carry out the Great Commission.

With God's blessings, Elder Folkenberg was able to procure an aircraft that he could use in the mission field. He was able to use his aviation training and expand his reach as a minister and venture into unreached areas of the jungles. Elder Folkenberg spent part of his early ministry in frontline evangelistic aviation. He flew as a bush pilot in the jungles of Central America for many years, dedicating much of his life to service in the Inter-American Division.

Elder Folkenberg's experience in the Inter-American Division changed the course of his life. He saw a great need that was present not only in Central America, but throughout the entire world—aircraft was needed to complete the Lord's work. Even after returning to the United States, and later becoming president of the General Conference from 1990-1999, he never forgot his days as a bush pilot minister. His firsthand experience and challenges of trying to reach souls who live so remotely, gave him the insight to start Adventist World Aviation.

Adventist World Aviation, a laymen's logistical support organization, was established during a series of meetings held at Andrews University the weekend of March 24, 1995. General Conference officials Robert Folkenberg, Leo Ranzolin, and Larry Colburn met with approximately 50 aviation and business professionals to examine aviation's role in fulfilling the commission to take the gospel to "every nation, tribe, language, and people" (Rev. 14:6). Laymen Len Cornwell of Vancouver, Washington, and Don Starlin of Berrien Springs, Michigan, organized and facilitated

the conference. "The goal was to bring interested professionals together and ask the Lord to use us," said Starlin.

Recently celebrating its 20th anniversary, Adventist World Aviation continues strong today because of the vision that Elder Robert Folkenberg had for this organization. Over the years that vision has grown and flourished. Today Adventist World Aviation operates 18 aircraft in Canada, United States (including Alaska), Philippines, and Guyana, and soon will have aircraft in Nicaragua and Brazil.

Not only a personal friend of mine, Elder Folkenberg was a "heavily invested" friend to AWA. If not for him and his leadership at the General Conference, Adventist World Aviation would not exist today. AWA is honored to dedicate this issue of AirWays to him.

*Ric Swaningson*



Pastor Ric Swaningson,  
President/CEO

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# The Flight Plan

**I**t's a new year! A new beginning!

One of my favorite Bible texts is Jeremiah 29:11, which says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

This text has always been a comfort to me because I know that each minute, each hour, each day, and each year is going to be good with God as my Friend and Savior.

Another text that I treasure is Isaiah 43:18, 19: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do young perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Both of these Bible scriptures are full of promise and hope.

I like new beginnings; I look forward to a new year. I like knowing that with God tomorrow will be good, and the next day. No matter what challenges come my way, what heartaches I may face, it's still a new beginning, a time of hope and promises.

Adventist World Aviation embraces this time of hope and promises. A new year and a new beginning in 2016 for AWA is going to be exciting, full of new projects, new missionaries being deployed, new stories and successes. Why? Because we are letting God lead us; because you are on our team. Thank you!

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Much of what Adventist World Aviation accomplishes is because of the resources provided by volunteers. These are people who are willing to give their time and energy to help on special projects, whether it is working in the corporate office, working on airplanes, or assisting at the AWA booth during conventions. We appreciate our volunteers and the time they have donated to our ministry. Here are some upcoming opportunities where volunteers are needed:

Corporate office in East Troy, Wisconsin:

- Stuffing envelopes
- Converting hard files into electronic files
- Working at AWA's booth during Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In and Expo, Lakeland, Florida, April 5-10, 2016.
- Working at AWA's booth during EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 25-31, 2016

If you have a desire to volunteer with AWA, please feel free to contact us at (414) 226-5195 or via e-mail at [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org).

## **MISSION PROJECTS**

Okanagan Adventist Academy will be on their mission trip with AWA from March 14-24, 2016, and following their project will be the students from Peace River Christian School. Both British Columbia schools will be building a home for Bill and Laura LaBore and their family (project manager and pilot). Please keep these two groups and this project in your daily prayers.

## **20th ANNIVERSARY**

There is still time to help AWA celebrate our 20th anniversary; our anniversary ends on March 25, 2016. Help us celebrate and impact more people through AWA's mission aviation service. We again suggest that you donate an extra \$20 to our ministry, marked as "Anniversary Gift." Then, encourage 19 others to do likewise. That will equate to a total gift of \$400 from you and your 19 friends, and it will be used to help save lives!

## **INTRODUCING NEW AWA TEAM MEMBERS**

We are pleased to introduce several new Adventist World Aviation team members, whose skills and talents will be a great benefit to our ministry.

### **RYAN KENNEDY**

We welcome Ryan Kennedy, who joins AWA from British Columbia, Canada. Ryan is an alumni of the aviation program at Walla Walla University, Walla Walla, Washington, and spent the last two years as a student missionary in the Marshall Islands.



As an SM he taught Health and Physical Education, and was also able to obtain his EMT certification at the local hospital. Ryan is excited to be able to serve God and explore his passion for aviation and travel. He holds commercial, instrument, and complex tail wheel ratings, as well as a recent float endorsement, and hopes to complete his A&P mechanics before deployment to the mission field with AWA. We are very excited to have Ryan as part of the AWA team!

### **RANDY FERGUSON**

We are very pleased to introduce a new position and team member. Randy Ferguson has accepted the role of safety officer for AWA worldwide. Randy brings many years of experience as an AME (Aircraft Mechanical Engineer, Canada), pilot, and aviation manager. Not only will this will further encourage a culture of safety in the organization but also will bring AWA into compliance with the AIRMAP mission aviation insurance program and membership in Mission Safety International. Welcome to Randy!

### **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 p.m. Central time. If you have the QR Code App on your smart phone, feel free to scan this QR code for viewing the following episodes:



### **Volunteer Needs**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-hRtSJJ3wE>

This episodes feature the hectic daily life of our busy missionary families. Yet with all the work they do, there is still such a great need for more helping hands, and more volunteers.

### **Logistics and Transportation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-snXdNvA97Y>  
Aircraft are the primary mode of transportation in the Guyana



outpost. But when the planes are down for repairs, the missionaries don’t stop working. They find creative ways to reach the remote villages to help people.

### **LaBore Transition**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-snXdNvA97Y>  
The LaBore family has served with AWA in Guyana for over 9 years. This episode reviews the great work they established in Guyana and looks forward to the future project that awaits them.



### **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 Web site 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 you can find us at @adventistworlda and on Facebook we can be found by searching Adventist World Aviation or AWA. Please check us out and “FRIEND” and “LIKE” us!

Charlene West is project development and evangelism director for AWA.



# The Run-up and the Takeoff Roll



**T**he “run-up” is a familiar term for aviators. It is used to describe the aircraft engine checks that the pilot makes before take-off. Similarly, that’s what’s been going on at Thunderbird as we prepped to resume the aviation program here. This semester we continue the private pilot ground class and flight training option offered through our partnership with Thunderbird Adventist Academy. We have a good group of students enrolled for class, and even more participating through our new aviation club. The program is once again taking off.

## Flight checks

Due to unexpected lengthy paperwork process, the temporary hangar is not up yet; but the Lord still provided for use of hangar space when needed, and the planned engine change and other maintenance are underway. With the new engine and accessories installed, the Cessna 172 will be able to roar to life with ease, thanks to the dedicated work of our director of maintenance, Nik Nagy. Nik and his family have relocated to Arizona, and he is now on-site at Thunderbird to provide maintenance support for the training airplane, as well as other AWA aircraft. The plane is now equipped with an iPad, which helps to improve student training and flight safety.

## Ways we are lifted

There’s growing support for this aviation program. We have been blessed with many hours of assistance from friends and dedicated volunteers. Some help with donating their time on maintenance projects. Others are there to support the AWA team working here. Most recently, we received help in the form of time, moving assistance, the donation of a vehicle for AWA-Thunderbird, temporary housing, and other needed facilities. God truly does provide. We appreciate all of you who are involved in efforts to assist and bless this program.

## Meet Elijah

I’d like to introduce you to student pilot Elijah Baragan. Elijah is the newest recipient of a flight scholarship through the AWA-Thunderbird Worthy Student Fund, and he is extremely excited about being able to train this semester!

Elijah doesn’t really remember the first time he was exposed to flying or aviation. But ever since he was little, he says he enjoyed being creative and building things. One of the things that helped get Elijah interested in aviation as a child was the gift of a model rocket before he was even old enough to read. He remembers it as a “cool experience” and his curiosity and interest in flying and mechanical things grew from there. When he was in seventh grade, he got more involved with aviation through his hobby with RC planes. Because of his mom’s commitment to Christian education and Elijah’s strong desire to be a pilot, he chose to come to Thunderbird Adventist Academy to get a jumpstart on his aviation goals.

Elijah has been very dedicated in his efforts here at Thunderbird, and has completed the ground school and passed the FAA written test. He is on his way to his first flight milestone: flying solo as a student pilot. You can follow Elijah’s training progress at Thunderbird in future reports. If you’d like to help him and other worthy students meet some of the financial challenges to reach their dreams, please mark your donations for “AWA-Thunderbird Worthy Student Fund.” For those interested in general support of our aviation program, please mark them as gifts for “AWA-Thunderbird.”

We are very grateful for the interest in and support for the AWA flight program. This unique partnership introduces students to the love of aviation and serving others, while awakening an interest in the school’s rich aviation history. I’m looking forward to where we can go from here. The program is rolling for takeoff!

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



# Paying It Forward

FLIGHT SCHOOL  
BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

Often, when we need it most, God places people in our lives to give us a helping hand. Sometimes it is in the form of a kind or encouraging word. Sometimes it is the gift of time, money, or expertise. It could be in the form of a personal connection, in which someone introduces you to a person who impacts your life in a profound way.

In a worldly context, we refer to these as favors. And when someone does you a favor, they may anticipate a favor in return. People expect payment in return!

Then there is the way that God teaches. Instead of paying people back, I believe He wants us to pay it forward, meaning that when someone does something nice for us, we can perpetuate the gift by doing something for someone else.

I think back to my experience in aviation. I grew up in Berrien Springs, Michigan. My father was a pilot. He used to take me to the Andrews University Airpark and let me hang out around airplanes and pilots. Sometimes he would take me flying. I remember going to fly-ins at Camp Au Sable and flying to the old Wisconsin camp meeting at Portage. The Portage airport was right across the street from the camp meeting; I spent almost as much time at the airport as I did at the meetings!

Living in Berrien Springs, I would often ride my bike to the airport. If I hung out long enough, someone would offer me a ride—I got to fly in a Piper Tri-Pacer, a Cessna Skylane, a Cessna Centurion, and a Piper Aztec.

My heroes during this time were missionary pilots. I had the privilege of meeting Clyde Peters and Bob Seamount, and many others whose names I forgot or never knew. Bill Barney was my Sabbath School teacher; he took me up flying as a reward for learning my memory verses during one Sabbath School quarter.

In this fertile crescent of aviation, I was sure I would solo before I got my driver's license. But alas, my family moved when I was 14, and none of this flying stuff was as convenient anymore. I did, however, have Jim Lanning as my Sabbath School teacher at our new church, and he used to regale all of us juniors with tales of his flights to ferry airplanes from the



Bob Seamount in front of his Cessna 185

United States for mission service in Africa, and other flying stories.

All of this fueled my love for flying, but it wasn't until I was in my 40s that I realized that I could act on this love of aviation from long ago and take up flight training, which led me to where I am today as a flight instructor for AWA in Pennsylvania.

I'm sure my experience is not unique. Most of us are where we are today because someone took an interest in us and fanned the flame that sparked our interests. It was because of people who were willing to give of their time, passion, and service that I have been able to reach where I am today.

We need volunteers today who will be godly mentors to young people in the fields of mission aviation. Don't underestimate your influence, even as a children's Sabbath School leader. The future of mission aviation depends on people volunteering to pay it forward.

Thank you for your willingness to share your money, time, passion, or interest with a young person wanting to learn how to fly. Who knows whether your influence will lead them to do some great work for God!

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Eric Engen teaches computer and music classes at Blue Mountain Academy, as well as private pilot ground school and is their certified flight instructor.







## NICARAGUA REPORT

# I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

**"Y**ou might as well forget it, Sweetheart, you're never going to fly," I heard my wife, Nancy, say as we discussed my desire to reactivate my pilot license for the hundredth time. "It's just too expensive and we can't afford it."

As a teenager, I had learned to fly in the back seat of my father's Piper Super Cub on our farm in Alberta, Canada. But now, many years later, married with the responsibility of raising three teenagers on a church salary, flying really wasn't a luxury we could afford and I knew Nancy was right. Even so, for some strange reason, flying was almost the only thing I had been thinking about recently.

It wasn't that our lives had been average or boring, in fact, it had been just the opposite. After graduating from Walla Walla University with a degree in Engineering, I had spent 13 amazing years working with Adventist World Radio. During that time I had met and married the girl of my dreams and we had enjoyed

living in Costa Rica and on the beautiful island of Guam. Our family had expanded to include two wonderful boys and a beautiful girl. Life was good.

We decided to leave Adventist World Radio and move to Canada, where I had grown up. I wanted to be closer to family and for my kids to experience some of the things I had enjoyed while growing up.

The move was harder than we expected and it took a few years for us to get established, but God was faithful and I found work at Burman University (the Adventist university in Canada). Once again, life was good—at least it was for a while—but deep inside we felt that something was missing. Even though I worked at a Christian university, we had become trapped into a routine of life that seemed to exclude God more and more.

We were only thinking about how we could make our lives more comfortable on this earth. We felt that we had fallen asleep, just like the story of the 10 virgins, and there seemed to be no way to wake ourselves up.

Together, we decided that we would pray and ask



The Hansen family—Norman, Nancy, Andrew, Steven and Melanie





## NICARAGUA REPORT

God to show us the plans He had for us. At the same time we began reading Roger Morneau's books on prayer. He showed how a connection with Christ could make everyday life an exciting journey and that this experience is available to all Christians. We longed to have a similar relationship with God and see His hand directing in our lives in a practical way.

While attending the Alberta Camp Meeting during the summer of 2014, an invitation to an anointing service was extended to anyone who wanted to request spiritual or physical healing. Nancy and I were both anointed, and we left the service feeling renewed, knowing that we could trust God to lead in our lives. Along with the desire to serve God in a more meaningful way, the desire to fly again was never far from my thoughts. Then came the phone call from my father, who told me, "Norman, I just heard that Adventist World Aviation is looking for pilots! You should give them a call."

We had never heard of AWA before, but we applied and were invited to join AWA as "Missionaries in Training" in October of 2014. We were so thrilled and excited. The next question was, Where we would be most useful? AWA was in the process of taking over an aviation mission outreach in Nicaragua, which just happened to be the country where Nancy had been born. Even though it seemed like a perfect fit, there was one problem. Because of a traumatic experience her family went through when she was a young child, Nancy had never imagined that she would return to Nicaragua.

In 1978 Nancy was only six years old and was living in Nicaragua with her seven-year-old brother and parents when the Nicaraguan Revolution began. Because of the unrest and instability in the country, her father decided to move the family to Costa Rica where they would be safe and able to attend school. After taking his wife and children to Costa Rica, he returned to Nicaragua, where he had been working in the Publishing Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission. He was asked to assist several colporteurs in delivering books and collecting the funds for orders that had been previously placed. Over several days they delivered the books and collected a large sum of

money. That night while in his hotel, fighting broke out between government forces and rebels who were attacking. The next morning the military had arrived in great numbers to reinforce the local police.

Very early in the morning Nancy's father packed his bags and money and left the hotel, but was soon arrested and taken to the police station. He was accused of being one of the rebels and was blindfolded, beaten, and interrogated for several hours. He was eventually placed in a dirty cell with a moldy mattress on the floor. He had suffered broken ribs and was bleeding from his head and mouth.

Three days later he was finally able to eat and the man responsible for feeding the prisoners recognized him as an Adventist missionary. He contacted the Adventist hospital and arranged for a visit from some of the staff. It took a week before his family learned what had happened to him. His wife traveled from Costa Rica to see him and he spent another week in prison while church, government, and military officials sent petitions on his behalf. News of his incarceration traveled throughout Central America and many prayers were offered on his behalf.

He was eventually released and told to go to the airport immediately and leave the country. For some reason they decided to stop at the mission guesthouse before arriving at the airport. While checking his luggage he found that all the money and his personal items had been stolen, and in their place were several grenades and a stash of ammunition. After quickly burying them in the backyard, they continued on to the airport, afraid of what other traps might be waiting for them. Thankfully, they were able to leave the country without any further incidents, but they had to abandon all their personal belongings, including a house, furniture, and a two-year-old car. In spite of this, they were so grateful that God had preserved his life and that he had been able to find the armaments, which would have certainly resulted in his permanent incarceration and death.

Even though Nancy was very young, this experience was very traumatizing and she determined to never return. As the possibility of working with AWA in Nicaragua became more of a reality, a fierce



The AWA airbase in Tronquera, Nicaragua



Accident victim being medevaced to medical facility

struggle took place in her mind. The last place on earth where she wanted to go was Nicaragua. Yet it seemed to her that every Sabbath the sermon was directed specifically to her and that God was asking her to surrender everything to Him, especially her fears. One Sabbath the closing hymn was entitled, “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go, Dear Lord.” As Nancy sang, she made the verses of this song her prayer and decided she must be willing to go if God would open the doors. Two of the verses especially spoke to her:

It may not be on the mountain’s height,  
Or over the stormy sea;  
It may not be at the battle’s front  
My Lord will have need of me;  
But if by a still, small voice He calls  
To paths I do not know,  
I’ll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine,  
I’ll go where You want me to go.

### Chorus

I’ll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,  
O’er mountain, or plain, or sea;  
I’ll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,  
I’ll be what You want me to be.

There’s surely somewhere a lowly place  
In earth’s harvest fields so wide,  
Where I may labor thro’ life’s short day  
For Jesus, the Crucified.  
So, trusting my all unto Thy care,  
I know Thou lovest me!  
I’ll do Thy will with a heart sincere,  
I’ll be what You want me to be  
After surrendering her will to God, Nancy experi-

enced peace and knew that God would be with us as we accepted this call. Later, when we talked with our three children, Andrew (16), Steven (14), and Melanie (12), we were impressed by their willingness to go, even though it would mean big changes for them as well.

For the past year we have been very busy with flight training and fundraising. We were also able to visit Nicaragua and see the mission air base firsthand and visit with the Hanleys, the missionary family that started this project before they permanently returned to the U.S. We also met many beautiful Miskito people who live in this region and found them to be very friendly and eager for us to come. Even though we are able to speak Spanish, we plan to learn the Miskito dialect as quickly as possible once we arrive.

The mission airbase is located near La Tronquera, a village of about 300 people in the North East Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region of Nicaragua. The main city and hospital is a five-hour drive from La Tronquera. The roads are very poor and that’s why the aviation medical evacuations are so effective at saving lives. A five-hour ambulance ride over rough roads can be replaced by a 40-minute flight, and this often



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## NICARAGUA REPORT

makes the difference between life and death. This free service is welcomed in the region and opens the doors for us as missionaries to share the love of Christ.

There is no electricity in the small town of La Tronquera where we will live, so we'll rely on solar power to supply our basic needs. There will be two other missionary families as part of this outreach, so we won't be on our own.

Home schooling in the higher grades will be a challenge, since access to the Internet is very limited. Nancy will be at home with the children, and together as a family we will be reaching out to the community. Norman will be providing emergency flights and involved in all the other details to keep this mission project going. One of the most difficult things is to leave aging parents here in Canada, but we trust that God will watch over our loved ones while we go and serve Him overseas.

As we look back we can see clearly that God has called us to work with Adventist World Aviation in Nicaragua. We are so excited to be a part of this project. So many people have already partnered with us to make this dream a reality and we trust that God will help us complete our fundraising and the many details that remain.

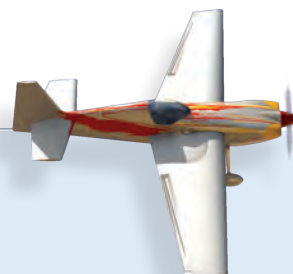
We would also encourage you to ask God to “wake you up.” He has a special place where you can work for Him. Perhaps it's right where you are or in some faraway place. God's work will be finished, with or without us, and He invites us to have a part in it. It is time for us all to go home. Let's “work for the night is coming, when man's work is done.” Thank you for praying for us as we continue to prepare to serve God.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14).

The Hansen Family—Norman, Nancy, Andrew, Steven and Melanie are preparing for deployment to Nicaragua.



## 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, P.O. Box 444, Sullivan, WI 53178-0444, or by e-mail to [projects@flyawa.org](mailto:projects@flyawa.org).

# A Decision for Mission Work

**“E**very true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary,” penned Ellen White (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195).

As Dayana and I grow spiritually, thoughts like this became more impactful in our lives. When asked to explain how we came to make a decision to be missionaries, we respond by saying, “That’s how God intended it.” We believe that He wants the same for you as well, though perhaps not in the same way.

Our journey as missionaries begins and has its foundation in who we are. Both Dayana and I are “people people.” We love to be with and help others, which is probably why we chose to work in education; both of us began working with students at age 18. Building upon that foundation, another crucial factor in our decision to serve as missionaries has been the healthy influence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is a mission-driven church. As a result, we study and have memorized many scriptures, which teach us that we are supposed to cooperate with Christ in spreading the gospel message. Among these are: Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19, 20; Matthew 24:24; and Revelation 14:6, 7. These verses tell us that we have a work to do, and that when we do it, we will go home to our Father. We want to help. We want to go home!

With these beliefs, we made our plans to serve as missionaries, though those plans were not God’s plans. We thought it would be best to teach 30 years first and be missionaries funded by a pension from the State of Michigan. Then, one fall Sabbath morning, we heard the words preached by our guest speaker and our hearts, our minds, and our plans changed. No longer could there be mission after retirement. The time is too short; we must begin our world mission now.

Dayana and I have always been missionaries where we are—participating in church services, giving Bible studies, teaching children’s Sabbath Schools, participating as deacon/ deaconess, and other duties. However, the call that the Lord had long set in our hearts was just set on fire. The message that many of God’s children are suffering and dying in an absence of Christ and of hope was laid before us. Without any conversation between us, we heard the call of Joshua

24:15, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.” Would we continue to serve ourselves, the public schools, “the man” and the status quo, or answer the Master’s call, “Come and follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”?

The events of that morning were nothing short of a miracle; the heart preparation was surely the work of many years. We, like most of those reading this article today, had placed such a high value on getting ahead. We had both studied hard while working full-time as teacher’s aides to become teachers. Neither one of us came from a family that was able to pay for our education. We both worked and borrowed to pay for that education—a large burden that we still carry today. At the time, I had been teaching for approximately eight years, with good success. As a foreign language instructor, I was a top performer, voted favorite middle school teacher in 2008, and received an excellence in teaching award the year prior. Dayana had fought through 10 years of going to school while working and caring for our two children. When the Lord called us, she had finally gotten her first full-time teaching position. Finally, we were going to see the fruits of our labors, two full-time professional incomes. For those reasons, I consider it to be a miracle that God could change both of our hearts with that message.

What did it take for us to make our decision to serve Christ as missionaries in a foreign land? Many things—a God-given love of people, scriptures that place a call on our hearts, a positive influence from a mission-minded church, a willing preacher who will speak the truth, and a love and willingness to take up our cross and follow Christ.

Perhaps you have heard this call, as well. Our minds are made up—we’d rather follow Jesus.

## **Life Changes: Self-reliance to Faith-reliance**

With the decision to move not only into the third world, but into the bush of the third world, comes many life changes. All these changes will fall to some extent or another under the umbrella of the idea of moving from self-reliance to faith-reliance. I don’t mean to say that it takes no faith for us to live here in





the United States, but I do know that mission life will multiply that faith element substantially. Perhaps, this is why God has allowed us to experience many faith-building events in our lives these past few years after choosing to serve as missionaries. It has been a pre-mission training. Life will change for us in the bush of La Tronquera, RAAN.

Living in Michigan we depend on God through self—we get a job and work to cover our needs. As missionaries to Nicaragua, we are volunteers and rely upon sacrificial gifts and donations from others. In Michigan, we take for granted our access to friends and family. As we embark on this mission, our friends and family will not be as accessible. Yet, we will make new friends. Also, as a family with young children, one huge hurdle is that of education. How do we ensure an adequate education for our dear children? This is a definite faith walk.

Many of the major life changes will have something to do with societal norms and infrastructure. Going into this new culture, we lack a basic familiarity with norms and processes. For instance, purchasing a vehicle in Michigan is relatively easy. In Nicaragua, this will require the assistance of a lawyer to ensure it is done properly. As far as infrastructure goes, our access to most anything is limited. Quality housing is difficult to obtain. The area has no electricity, no running water, and limited access to phones or the Internet. Most of these things are only available in limited quantities through the mission; we will need to provide our own. Lastly, we will need to manage all of these changes in Miskito, a language we do not yet know. It is only through our faith in God that all of this will be possible.

### Plans for Deployment

Our deployment is approaching quickly and we are excited to be on our way! We committed to AWA in May 2014 and began our fundraising efforts. By December 2014 we had raised the funds necessary for our survey trip to Nicaragua over the Christmas break. Then, 2015 was filled with challenges as we balanced life, homeschool, work, missions, and support of our local church.

Though we do not yet have an exact departure date, we have laid out a timeframe. We are planning for an end of summer 2016 departure and are setting some goals and benchmarks accordingly. Please watch for our newsletters and follow us on Facebook @ Mission La Tronquera for more specifics. Currently, we are focused on becoming “homeless,” as the sale of our home will be essential for us to depart. Along with this, we have some student loans to pay. In addition, we are planning to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Institute of World Mission in July 2016. After training, we will complete any final preparations and we will depart in August 2016, Lord willing!

### Golden Opportunity

The mission at La Tronquera represents a golden opportunity, one that rarely comes along. We have been blessed with the opportunity to step into a mission that has ten year relationships and foundations laid. However, at this time it is not fully serving the people because the full-time missionary team has not yet arrived. We wish to express our great gratitude to all those who have already supported this mission, either by prayers or financially. We also wish to extend an invitation to those who have not yet partnered with us in this mission project. Please do not miss this golden opportunity. We want to be your missionaries to Nicaragua, to help complete God’s work in these last days, so that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the earth as a witness unto all nations and then the end shall come.”

If you feel so moved to support our work there, please make your donation of support to the Kaboos family via AWA and pray that the Lord will bless.

The Kaboos Family—Dennis, Dayana, Angel, and Daliana are preparing for deployment to Nicaragua.



# Reaching the Miskito People of Nicaragua

**T**ypically I enjoy Christmas music—it's cheerful and fun, but at this moment it was boring a hole in my brain after blaring for hours in the airport terminal. We had found a comfortable place to get a few hours rest during an overnight layover in the Houston airport. However, management clearly had no intention of facilitating sleep. By five a.m., Dean Elmore and I surrendered to the “sleigh bells jingle” and joined the masses to find our way to our departure gate for Managua.

Dean and I had escaped a Canadian early winter cold snap and were making our way to Nicaragua to spend a few days helping with some maintenance at the La Tronquera AWA Airbase in the isolated northeast corner of the country. Dean, his wife, Vera, and their family will be serving for a few months there in 2016, so this was a good opportunity for him to get a taste of the environment they needed to prepare for.

This region of Nicaragua is unique in that the primary and trade language is Miskito rather than Spanish. The Miskito people are a small but distinct indigenous group with an unusual history of being fiercely independent of the wider Spanish influence in the region. The area is also geographically isolated from the rest of the country, making services limited and of course, leading to the need for mission aviation support.

The AWA-Wings Over Nicaragua project has been developing rapidly over the past few months! Wings of Hope (WOH) in St. Louis, Missouri, has been a strategic partner for many years and we have recently renewed that relationship in a very significant way. Wings of Hope is providing AWA with a Cessna 182 for a very moderate cost and will also be preparing the airplane for deployment to Nicaragua. In Puerto Cabezas dedicated WOH pilot T.J. Stewart is maintaining the medical emergency flights to the rural villages and transporting mission teams to conduct medical and dental clinics. We are looking forward to working with WOH for maintenance and deployment assistance with other AWA aircraft as well.

T.J. flew us to the airbase, where we spent a couple of days with the local staff and visiting with people in the community. Sometimes mission work takes an odd twist. Wooden buildings provide a perfect roosting environment for “little mice with wings.” I know we used to hear them every night in Guyana as they scrambled around in the enclosed ceiling spaces, but there seemed to be nothing we could do about it. Dean had an idea though; a bat roost. A quick search revealed a number of designs that incorporated vertical slats in a lightproof box that is intended to create a perfect roosting space, ideally more attractive than the mission house itself! We left a welcome mat







## NICARAGUA REPORT

out at the new bat-house!

As with other projects, AWA accepted the challenge of this mission without knowing how God would provide. You will be hearing more about the missionary families that have committed to the project in Nicaragua. Each family has a unique story of how they have been called and are now being equipped for missionary service and how God has provided in amazing ways.

**Norman and Nancy Hansen:** Nancy has an astonishing story of reluctantly coming full circle back to the country of her birth and Norman whose dream of flying seemed to have amounted to nothing more than youthful folly.

**Dennis and Dayana Kaboos:** Dennis and Dayana's deep desire to minister to others combined with a gift for language has already endeared them to the Miskito people in the short time they have spent visiting.

**Artur and Margarita Karst:** Artur also thought his dream of mission flying was over before he was called back from flying game patrols in Africa to serve the Lord. Margarita, who fell in love with missions in Honduras, found herself teaching in a tiny elementary school in Germany.

These families are now moving into deployment phase and by God's providence, we hope to have them all situated in Nicaragua in 2016! Please remember the Miskito people and these missionaries as they prepare to serve in this life-saving ministry.

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



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# Walls of Hope for the Imprisoned

**I**n the Philippines, the prisoners in the jails have a life that is very simple and is the poorest in living. They are forced to work hard, planting rice, cutting grass, tending to animals in the pastures, and cleaning the homes of the officers. Many times they do not get to bed until late at night and must get up very early in the morning. Their meals are small, and they are only provided a bar of soap once a month. They have no toothpaste, toothbrushes, slippers, or shoes.

While visiting one of the jails, I asked the prisoners if they received visits from their families and friends. Most indicated that their only visitors were from our church group every fourth Sabbath of the month. Also, I asked if they ever received packages or money from family or friends. Only three out of 20 raised their hands. The rest had to come up with other ways to raise funds for their basic needs. One such project is making items from coconut shells, bamboo, and wood, which they sell to others to help with purchasing needed items.

One of the brethren in our church stated, “This is their penalty for the crimes they have committed.” However, I responded, “Yes, but Jesus died for them, and we need to show them our Christian love, as Jesus would.”

These prisoners need to know that God loves them. Through our visits, saying, “Hello, brother,” “Happy Sabbath,” and “God loves you,” we are sharing Jesus with them. Also, our church members can provide them small amounts of rice to add to their meals, gifts of toothpaste and toothbrushes, and other simple items they need. Every time we visit them, their weak spiritual life becomes stronger, and they provide us with beautiful smiles of appreciation.

As mentioned earlier, the new management at the jail set up a new rule requiring us “not to give Bible studies and convert inmates to other denominations.” However, on November 28, 2015, we were permitted

to baptize three individuals to Jesus. Even before these three were baptized, they were actively sharing their newfound faith and love for Jesus. Then, God answered our prayers, and we were able to baptize them.

December 5, 2015, was a day of praise to the Lord. The offering received that day was earmarked for evangelism. During my visit to the jail and my fellowship with the inmates, I encouraged them to share their offering for evangelism ministry. Even though they did not have large amounts to share, their hearts opened, and they gave faithfully. For the previous two months, they gave a thousand pesos in tithe to the mission.

A church is desperately needed outside the maximum areas of the jail. A simple chapel costs \$3,625 and includes metal roofing, concrete floor, walls, concrete block, and bamboo, plus benches for seating. Won’t you answer the pleas of our brother inmates to help provide a church for them? Even those in jail need to hear God’s words of hope and love.

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





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# We Are a Team!

**W**hen we first arrived in Guyana we wondered what ministry was in God's plan for us. Fast forward six months—we acclimated to our new life in the Guyana interior and we discovered that God has blessed us with more opportunities to join His work than we could have imagined. The number of ministries and programs with needs can be overwhelming at times, when trying to determine which options we should pursue as individuals, as a family, and as a team. There are so many needs, yet the resources are limited. To what areas should we direct our resources and efforts? Should we just pick



Children in Guyana receiving backpacks for school

Thankfully, God has often revealed answers to our many questions through diligent prayer and through partnerships with friends and church families throughout the United States. God is so good.

We started a lending library to encourage youth to become more involved with reading, but where will we get books to help stock our library? God answered when a church matriarch from the States informed us that she will be sending some books to support the lending library and the education of youth.

An annual missionary team event in December is to distribute clothes, shoes, toiletries, and Bibles to needy families in the communities we serve. We wondered as a new team, Where will we get the sup-

plies and provisions to distribute? Once again, He was faithful. In early November we received word that a few congregations collected over a dozen barrels (55 gallon drums) full of clothes and provisions and shipped them to us for sharing with the needy in the Guyana interior for Christmas.

The fund for our Bible workers' monthly stipend was nearly depleted in October. After a few faithful partners learned of the situation, they decided to help regenerate that depleted fund for 24 months. Then, a Junior and Earliteen Sabbath School class pledged to cover the monthly cost of boat fuel that will provide us the opportunity to visit and support a blossoming church by the river. Another church has dedicated all of their lamb's offering to cover one month's support for our project. Many of you have partnered with us to support the missions here with your financial resources and prayers; we owe much of our success to you. We know that even more is possible through your partnership and support of His mission work in Guyana.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:20, "But now indeed there are many members, yet one body." How faithful our God is and His people, too! Maranatha! Let us all labor together within our families, within our communities and in the foreign mission fields, until He returns.

We believe we are in the mission field only through divine providence, because we are so faulty, damaged, and with many defects. But praise the Lord, His mercy and grace endures forever. He has connected a network of partners and friends to labor together to do the work He has set for us to do. Will you help us do more?

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Bruce and Monique Wilkerson are AWA missionaries in training. Bruce writes from Albuquerque, New Mexico.





# You Are a Channel of Blessings



**"S**ister Chrystal, you know where we are at. They have nothing for the children's program. Do you have anything you can spare to send us? We have nine churches here and most of the churches have a place for the children to meet, but all we can do is tell stories. We would be so thankful for anything you can send us."

The pleas at the other end of the phone were from Sister Bramford, the wife of Pastor Bramford, who had been transferred to a new district while we were on furlough. They are now ministering along the Essequibo River, an area known for being especially poor.

What I found quite interesting about this call was that the Elkhart, Indiana, church had sent more Sabbath School supplies this year than ever before. I was in the midst of unpacking the recently received shipment. I had also just spoken with a friend who was coming down to visit; she had asked what she could bring. I told her to bring Sabbath School supplies, even though I was currently looking at a nice comfortable stash of them. Now, I knew why I had requested more from her.

I packed up a box of supplies, such as *Our Little Friend*, *Primary Treasure*, *Guide*, *Insight* and quarterlies for each of the children's divisions. I was also fortunate enough to have had some teacher's quarterlies included in the shipment from the States. When churches send these materials, I organize the quarterlies and the teaching materials from all of the churches so that I can give them children's quarterlies that match the teaching materials. So, even though one church may only send down three or four quarterlies, I add them to those from other shipments so I can give

a teacher a nice set of perhaps 12 quarterlies and the accompanying teaching materials. I also was able to send five boxes of crayons, five pairs of scissors, five glue sticks, and a small package of construction paper for each of the nine churches.

Greg took one box of supplies into Georgetown on one of his flights and dropped it off at the conference office; they can deliver it when they go out to that village, or if the pastor comes in for a meeting he can pick it up. About one week later I received a telephone call. "Sister Chrystal, I received the things you sent. Thank you so much for them. You have no idea how thankful we are for these."

This is a project that I am unable to do alone. The supplies that are sent to us make a huge impact on the communities we serve. Our team has several churches in the United States who ship things to Guyana for us to use and share. This allows us to help provide some of the following help—supplies (crayons, glue, teaching aids) for the teachers at Baribina Primary School, supplies for Sharon Nursery School in Settlement, Branch Sabbath School in Settlement, Sabbath School in Baribina and Thomas Hill, literature for our Bible worker to distribute, books for church libraries and Bible workers throughout the country, and materials for five other Sabbath Schools in Region One. We had the privilege of giving every pastor in Guyana the book *Studying Together* by Mark Finley, a Bible Textionary and the book, *Our Friends, the Jehovah Witnesses* by E. B. Price. Because of the generosity this year, we added nine more Sabbath Schools. We also gave backpacks and a few school supplies to 30-40 children when school started in September.

Yet, the biggest single giveaway is at Christmas, when we celebrate heaven giving us the most priceless Gift of all. We have been able to provide food baskets and gift bags filled with clothing, toys, school supplies, household items, and personal items to people in the areas immediately surrounding us. Last year we gave out 70 food baskets and gift bags. We had items left over, so the team took things to Blackwater, a church on the river.

We view ourselves as "pipes." God fills us spiritually so we can give to others; our donors fill us with





things to give to those around us and we spill out even to areas we don't know about. I have heard that we have things spread all over Guyana now. God must be smiling, because He is a God who loves to give good gifts and we are working with Him when we do the same thing.

Another big blessing we had this year was the sale of a piece of land that had been donated to us. This has been a tremendous blessing to us. We could not even be here if it were not for people being willing to provide the funding for us to live here.

In addition, the student missionaries who come down have been such a blessing as they are able to do things for us, freeing up our time. They also have their own personal ministries that God brings to them, and they help with the bigger picture of ministry, as well. The last set of student missionaries took on mentoring the youth, and it was such an

encouragement to them, as well as a blessing to the student missionaries themselves. They bring a youthful energy that is encouraging to us "old timers," too.

We really can't say enough about the support we get from "back home" in the States. Without your support there is very little that can accomplish. You and the many people who help support our missionary endeavors are truly a channel of blessings. If you would like to be involved in some way, please feel free to contact us and we will try to find just the right niche for you.

Greg and Chrystal VanFossen, along with their two children, Brandon and Serena, have been serving in Guyana since May of 2011.



## Donations for Baramita

One of the many blessings that we receive from donors to aid us in our missionary ministries in Mabaruma and the surrounding villages in Guyana is the shared resources that provide for the medical, dental, and other needs of the Amerindian people.

Gwen and I, and our team members, are very grateful for the donations of two medical professionals from North Carolina. Dr. Chris Clark, a dentist practicing in Bladenboro, North Carolina, and Dr. Richard Berry, an internist practicing in Whiteville, North Carolina, responded to our appeal for donations of medical and dental supplies, which are desperately needed for the people in the village of Baramita.

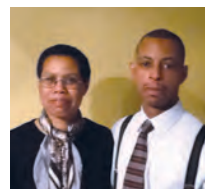
The members of our AWA team were given a tour of the medical clinic a couple of months ago, where we noted a lack of supplies, outdated supplies, and other supplies that were unusable. We also recognized the need for trained staff support. It was a bleak picture that we saw while visiting the small

medical clinic.

As a result of our appeal to several medical and dental professionals, we received sterile and unsterile gloves, sterile scrub brushes, bandages, sutures, "Ouchless" non-adherent pads, fever thermometer probe covers, hemostats, a blood pressure cuff, tape, an A1C test dilution kit, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental floss.

Even with the generous donations from both Dr. Clark and Dr. Berry, much more is still needed. These two brothers answered the call, as did the little boy who gave the two loaves and five fishes for such a great multitude. His lunch was not enough in itself, but when God blessed it, all were satisfied and there was more for another day.

Vonzell and Gwednolyn Chancey are AWA missionaries in training and write from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





**W**e peered out the dusty windshield and down the steep and bumpy road. We could see about five or six little children all dressed up in their best, jumping up and down, excitedly shouting, “Deh commin! Deh Commin’!” (translated, “They’re coming!”). Then they ran to tell their brothers and sisters that the ride to church was there.

Every week we would take the bumpy road to a village to collect whomever wanted to go to Sabbath School, which usually amounted to a very packed truck. (To find out how many we could fit in our vehicle, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfwUyBFfH4c!>). We would feed them cinnamon rolls on the way, so they would have something in their bellies to carry them through.

We would have up to a total of 50 kids, from different villages, come every Sabbath. It was fun! After Sabbath School, the adults would meet for a Bible study. All this started when we were asked by the pastor of a Sunday church (who became a Seventh-day Adventist) to begin holding Sabbath School at his church. The church wasn’t being used very often and we were happy to be able to tell Bible stories, make crafts related to the story, and help the children memorize Bible verses. There was a lot of singing and music, too!

After about a year from the time we started this program, we were told we could no longer use the church. Yet, no one was using it, except for the termites for supper.

This story has a happy ending, though! Before we left Guyana, Bill coordinated the process of getting a

piece of land in the same area that we were in before. Just before leaving, he signed papers that would enable us to lease the land. At the same time, Bill also started the process of getting land in the same area to build a hangar for the airplanes. Our new project management team, Bruce and Monique Wilkerson, will see these projects through. For years now, our mechanics have worked on the planes outside in the elements. It always amuses us that the weather always seems to be severe when working on the plane. It’s either dreadfully hot and we get scorched, or it’s a down-pour rain, making turning wrenches a challenge.

We were so excited to hear that the Wilkersons finally received approval from the Guyanese government to move forward with the construction of the hangar at the Mabaruma airstrip.

Although our heads are eagerly turned toward the Philippines, part of our hearts will always be with the people of Guyana. We are thrilled that our replacements are doing such great work and things are progressing well. Please keep them in your prayers.

We leave soon for the Philippines and are excited to see what God has planned. We’ll keep you posted!

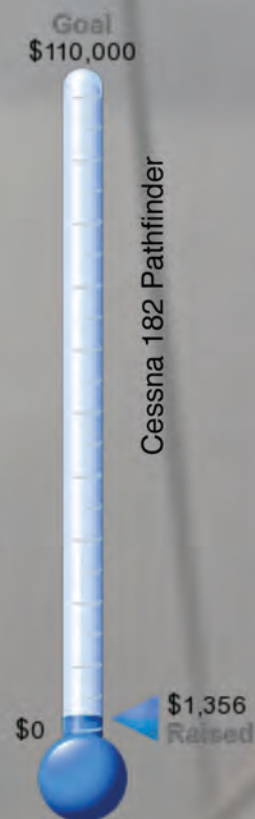
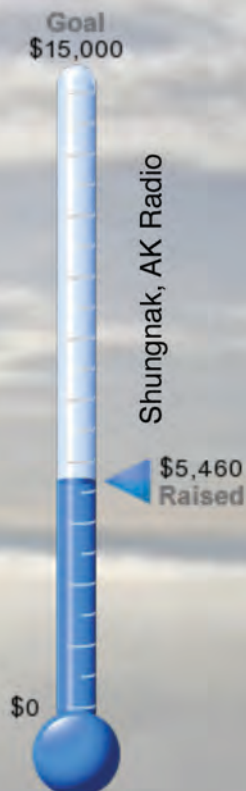
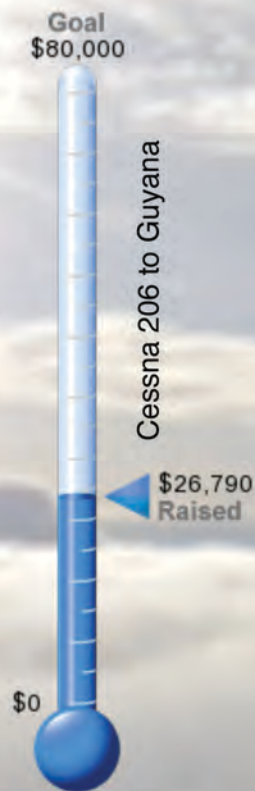
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The LaBore Family—Bill (project manager) and Laura (pilot and nurse), with their two children, Micah and Danielle, have been serving in Guyana since 2005. They will be deployed to the Philippines in early 2016.





# PROJECT NEEDS





## FLIGHT SAFETY

# Safety—It's Our Responsibility

### Introducing Randy Ferguson

We are very pleased to introduce a new team member. Randy Ferguson has accepted the role of Safety Officer for AWA worldwide. Randy brings many years of experience as an Aircraft Mechanical Engineer (AME, Canada), pilot, and aviation manager. Not only will this will further encourage a culture of safety in the organization, but also will bring AWA into compliance with the AIRMAP mission aviation insurance program and membership in Mission Safety International.

Jud Wickwire, VP Operations



**I**n a world full of risk and uncertainty, the promotion of safety is everyone's responsibility. When it comes to safety, we often allow someone else to be responsible for the tough or uncomfortable decisions. It is easy to believe that the risk factors are all located where the action is. We often think it is the pilots, the fuelers, the maintenance, medical, or mission personnel who need to be responsible for and follow the safety procedures. However, the safety of each individual on a team is affected by the safety attitude of everyone involved. Some of our team members are exposed to more hazards or higher risks

than others, but the safety of each member is equally important.

The cost of an accident to life, reputation, and finances is devastating. Policies and procedures, quality control and audits are often perceived as punitive. This reality drove industries and regulatory bodies to look for more proactive ways to promote safety. The outcome was the development of a Safety Management System (SMS). An SMS is designed to be a multidisciplinary, team-focused approach to safety. The first purpose of an SMS is to help organizations identify hazards. Second, to be continuously looking for better ways to eliminate or mitigate the hazards and associated risks, keeping them to an acceptable level. The third purpose is to monitor the SMS and make sure it is working to provide the safest environment possible. This can help us to provide the maximum service, in the safest way, to those we serve, to our supporters and our own team, and most importantly to our God.

Even though AWA has a good safety record, the development and promotion of a Safety Management System (SMS) becomes our responsibility. Some of the responsibilities of a safety officer include conducting internal safety audits and implementing a trackable SMS to allow AWA to continually improve operating safety.

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





# Charitable Giving Wish List

**H**ave you ever wished you could do something for your favorite charity but thought, “I really need the income at this stage of my life?” If so, maybe you should consider a gift annuity. It could be a real blessing in disguise.

I recently did a work-up for a 72-year-old woman. She qualified for a 5.7% rate of income from that annuity for her lifetime, guaranteed by all of the assets of the issuing entity. She was surprised to learn that she also received a tax deduction on funding the annuity and that much of the income she would receive for a number of years would be tax-free. She had the satisfaction of an increased return over her current CD rate and the knowledge that at death the balance in the annuity would go outside of probate to her named charity. She also had the satisfaction that this source of income could not be taken away from her. Even if a

nursing home or other end-of-life care used up the rest of her assets; her gift to charity was secured.

Call us for a free consultation. Learn more about gift annuities and other instruments that could save you taxes and provide increased income, and at the same time relieve you of the hassle and worry of managing your estate.

Richard Habenicht is AWA's director of development.



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## 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 Memory of:

**Eldon L. Vories**  
Barbara L. Vories

**Carlene Kregelsten**  
Marguerite Ross

**Bill Baxter**  
Ernest and Dorothy  
Toppenberg

**Darlene Ewert**  
Kenneth and Sheryl  
Christensen

**The Sinouthasy Family**  
Noi Sinouthasy

**Albert S. Whiting**  
Jerry and Loretta Johnson

**Mark West SR**  
Art Lesko

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

**Steve Belau (son)**  
Don and Barbara Belau

**Andrea Corbett**  
Wesley and Judy Olson

**Francis Sergeant**  
Francis and Janet Sergeant

**Blake Belau, Steve Belau,  
and Brack Beglau**  
Don and Barbara Belau

**Barry and Thelma Burton**  
Michael and Alice Weakley

**John Hancock  
(Mr. Pathfinder)**  
Samuel and Elda Eller

**Thad Franklin**  
Douglas and Yvonne Franklin

**David Chitwood**  
Anthony Peters

**Kenneth Reeves**  
Ardis Reeves

**Ellmord Voorees**  
Lee and Marlyn Sheive

**Herbert E. Holmes**  
William Merritt

**Betty Bylard**  
Mary Antonucci

**Loved ones**  
Frank and Carol Farkash

Donna Argotti

**Jean Hildebrand's  
90th Birthday**  
Dorothy Hildebrand  
Brent Hildebrand  
Ann Frost  
Sonja Nicola  
Thomas Knutson  
Junxia Sha  
B. G. Meese  
Bob Knutson  
Mary Hildebrand  
James Campbell  
Betty Tiffany

### In Honor of:

**Don and Trudy Starlin**  
Marguerite Ross

**In honor of her 62nd  
Anniversary**





**Adventist World Aviation**  
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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES

Visit the new Adventist World Aviation website:  
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