



The Official Voice of Adventist World Aviation

# AIRWAYS

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A young man wearing a grey baseball cap with sunglasses perched on top and a light green tank top is the central figure. He is holding a large, weathered green metal bucket and pouring a stream of sand into a large, dark, circular opening in the ground, which appears to be a pipe or a well. The background shows a construction site with a grey cinder block wall. Two other people are visible in the background: one in a white shirt and another in a green shirt. A yellow and blue model airplane is perched on the top right edge of the page, above the main title.

## A TRIBUTE TO AWA'S DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

**INSIDE: VOLUNTEERING PUTS YOU IN HARMONY WITH JESUS, P. 12**



#### PUBLISHER

Adventist World Aviation  
AirWays is available free of charge

#### PRESIDENT/CEO

Ric Swaningson  
President@FlyAWA.org

#### LAYOUT & DESIGN

Matt Brunson  
Seminars Unlimited, Keene, Texas

#### PRINTING

Seminars Unlimited, Keene, Texas

#### EDITOR

Pat Humphrey

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Chapman, Chairman  
Dennis Dahl, DDS  
Lloyd Janzen  
Ric Swaningson, Secretary  
Donald Corkum

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/CANADA

Donald Corkum, Chairman  
Richard Habenicht, Secretary  
Ric Swaningson  
Dan Scuka  
Ed Dunn

#### CONTACT

Send all inquiries or change of address notices to:  
Adventist World Aviation  
P.O. Box 444, Sullivan, WI 53178-444  
Phone: (414) 226-5195  
E-mail: [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org)  
Website: [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org)

#### 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.

#### IN CANADA

Please send donations to:  
AWA Canada  
1281 Highway 33 East  
Kelowna, B.C. V1P 1M1  
BN 84364 2166 RR0001

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## PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

# A Tribute to AWA's Donors

**A**dventist World Aviation would not exist without donors! Did you know that 100 percent of our income is from donors? We receive no direct financial support from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, or any other organizations—just from you! That makes you special to us!

Donors, people who donate something, especially money to a fund or charity, are important for many reasons. For a charitable organization, such as AWA, they are the lifeblood of

offer the spoils of the Amalekites, was a STINGY GIVER (1 Samuel 14:17-23).

Then, we read in 2 Samuel 24:24 about the SACRIFICIAL GIVER, who was David. He refused to give that which cost him nothing. Ananias and Sapphires were the COVETOUS GIVERS, because they held back part of the price of their possession, pretending to give all (Acts 5:1-10).

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 we read about the Macedonians, who first gave of themselves to the Lord. They exemplified

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## “Did you know there are twelve types of givers (donors) and types of giving mentioned in the Bible?”

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the mission activities. For someone in a serious medical condition, a donor provides blood for transfusion or an organ or tissue for transplantation.

Did you know there are twelve types of givers (donors) and types of giving mentioned in the Bible?

Abraham, who offered his only son as a WILLING GIVER (Genesis 22:1-19). Then, Mark 12:42-44 tells about the widow who gave all she had by giving two mites. She was a BIG LITTLE GIVER. King Saul, who wanted to

the CONSECRATED GIVERS. Peter and John, who had neither silver or gold, were LIFE GIVERS. They gave life to the lame man (Acts 3:1-9).

The man who climbed the Sycamore tree was a VOLUNTARY GIVER. We know him as Zacchaeus; he gave of his goods to feed the poor without being asked (Luke 19:1-9). Then, there are those who gave to be seen of men. They are known as the REWARD GIVERS, and they had their only reward here on earth (Matthew 6:2).



How about the Samaritan? He was the UNPRETENTIOUS GIVER. He made no show of his giving (Luke 10:25-37).

Philippians 4:18 tells about the Philippians, whose gifts were “an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.” They are the PERFUMED GIVERS.

However, God, who gave His only begotten Son so that you and I might have eternal life, was the GREATEST GIVER.

Obviously, Adventist World Aviation accepts gifts from any type of giver. Each one is important to our ministry.

We have donors who give of their time to help AWA at events, greeting people who come to visit the AWA booth and telling them about AWA, as well as working in the office, helping out as needed. These volunteer hours are so important to help share the message of our ministry. Throughout each issue of AirWays you see advertisements from vendors, e.g., CJAviation, TKM Inc./Michel Avionics, Dual, On Hold Marketing, Wicks Aircraft, Jeppesen, Sandia Aerospace, Aircraft Engine Specialists, and ALS. These are donors, as well. They provide supplies, equipment, and services at no charge or discounted prices; these are valuable donations that help keep the ministry functioning.

Other volunteers give of their time to work on the airplanes, doing routine maintenance or annual inspections. To pay for these services would cost AWA thousands of dollars. The valuable volunteers are donating their precious time to keep our aircraft flying safely.

We have also church, school, and other groups of people who gather much-needed clothing, school supplies, student backpacks, and other items, which are then shipped in barrels to our mission airbases. The contents within these

barrels are then provided to the villagers; these acts of kindness and donated items help open doors of communication for our AWA missionaries. Once the doors are open, the message of Jesus and His gift of salvation can be shared.

This issue of AirWays is a tribute to you—a donor, a giver, a benefactor, supporter, and friend to Adventist World Aviation. You are appreciated, you are loved, and you are valued. Rest assured, we don’t take you for granted!



Pastor Ric Swaningson,  
President/CEO



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# The Flight Plan

**W**hen I was in school, during one Spring break vacation, I had the opportunity to volunteer at Voice of Prophecy. I was one of several students who were stuffing envelopes for a mass mailing that was going out that week. Other than the occasional paper cut, it was actually fun. When the vacation break concluded, I felt good that I had accomplished something meaningful, and was pleased with the new friends that I had made. The fact that I did not receive a paycheck for my week of “fun,” did not bother me. I felt that I had made a small impact on a ministry for Jesus.

This issue of Airways is especially dedicated to our volunteers and donors, who are so vital to the success of our ministry in so many ways. Without you, fewer planes would be flying, fewer people would have received necessary medical supplies, clothing, and school supplies, and we would have fewer missionaries serving in the mission field. So, 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:

- Stuffing envelopes
- Converting hard copy files into electronic files
- 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).

## INTRODUCING NEW AWA TEAM MEMBERS

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

### The Tietz Family

Both Joerg and Vera were born in Germany, where Joerg grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist family. After completing his education, Joerg moved to Berlin (Germany) where he was trained in nursing at Waldfriede, an Adventist hospital. He lived in Berlin for 17 years before moving back to his hometown, where he took his father's place in the family business. When Vera finished her education, she worked as a secretary in a law firm for the next 12 years. During this time, Vera had the opportunity to spend four months in South Bronx, New York, working with troubled youth. From this training and experience, Vera helped set up a youth camp in India for about 460 children.

Even though Vera was not raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family, she still had strong Christian values. She met Joerg through a chatroom for Christians. They became good friends. From their long chats, Vera began to evaluate her life and decided to break from her religious traditions and become an Adventist. Together, as friends, Vera and Joerg went on a mission trip to Uganda, Africa. At the Victoria Lake, Vera was baptized on February 4, 2010, and within a few months they were married. It was also in 2010 that Joerg began his aviation training to become a pilot. Their goal is to become missionaries and show others God's love.

Their family includes their children, Silas and Joel, and Vera's mother, Barbel Weber. Together, they are looking forward to mission service with Adventist World Aviation.



## 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 a QR Code app on your smart phone, feel free to scan this QR code for viewing the following episodes:

### Babies Medevac

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rZSmuHmqxE&feature=youtu.be>

In the northeast corner of Nicaragua, Adventist World Aviation has an aviation mission base strategically placed to help the local Miskito Indians. This mission base has been operational for eight years, offering emergency medical transport from remote jungle villages to hospital facilities. These flights very often save the lives of the patients being transported, since there are very few remote road systems to reach the far-flung communities. AWA is honored when provided with opportunities to save lives with the aid of aviation. In this episode of *Off the Grid*, pilot Clint Hanley is able to transport two hurting children who would not survive the treacherous journey via land travel.



### Building an Aviation Mission Base

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3KZqcC\\_B5E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3KZqcC_B5E)

Adventist World Aviation has mission bases placed around the world in difficult to reach areas. Some of villages that AWA aircraft serve are so remote, that there are no roads to get to these locations. AWA aviation bases aid local indigenous people with the use of aircraft. The air base in Nicaragua is no different. The Hanley family developed the La Tronquera aviation mission base over ten years ago. Developing logistical and infrastructure support can be a difficult task when working in such remote locations.



## Building the Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc9SoJiq9AQ>

Adventist World Aviation is focused on building the kingdom of heaven. The work of all of AWA missionaries is all focused on showing others the love of Jesus Christ. Most days, the missionaries utilize airplanes to help those in great need; however, not all days involve the use of aircraft. In-between flights, AWA missionaries stay constantly busy with numerous ways in which they can show those around them the love of our Creator. The Hanley family dedicates their talents to the Miskito people in Nicaragua.



## AMAZON SMILE / EBAY

As you shop for various items, consider using 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 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!

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Charlene West is project development and evangelism director for AWA.



# Ready, Set, Go!

## Preparing AWA's Aircraft for Service



**A**fter a three-week trip to the Philippines in March, I checked in at home for three days and then headed to Florida for the annual Sun N Fun Fly-in, where, along with several other IAMA (International Association of Missionary Aviation) mission aviation organizations, we had the privilege of introducing hundreds of people to mission aviation for the first time. The aviation community is relatively small and any opportunity to create awareness of the significant role of mission aviation is exciting.

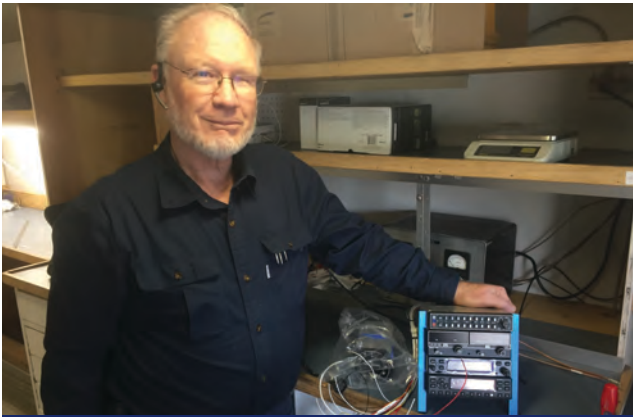
In two back-to-back mission trips to the Philippines, a total of 47 students, school leaders, and construction volunteers almost completed the majority of the mission house structure for Bill and Laura LaBore, AWA's missionaries to the Philippines. The students and staff members of Okanagan Adventist Academy and Peace Christian School in British Columbia, Canada, provided an outstanding contribution to the building project. They exhibited exceptional character and work ethic during the construction, evening Vacation Bible School programs, and a variety of other

activities. We also thank Travis and Michelle Maloney, who contributed a full seven weeks to the project, along with their dedicated construction team, Kevin and Solomon Boerschinger, Jeff and Michelle Zeissmer, Alex Zeissmer, and Jayden Heck.

So far this year, exciting maintenance progress has been made on a number of AWA airplanes. Here is a quick tour:

At AWA's aviation maintenance center in Scottsdale, Arizona, Nik Nagy completed the engine change on the Cessna 172, with an upgraded O-360 Lycoming engine. Of course, a number of additional items were covered in this process, including a propeller overhaul and the typical range of smaller snags and discrepancies. With the assistance of Larry Kline, they also completed a fresh annual inspection. Once the plane is safe to fly, it will head over to the Flite Instruments and Avionics shop in Chandler, Arizona, for some avionics upgrades. Thanks to a recent donation, this aircraft will receive ADS-B (Automatic Dependence Surveillance-Broadcast) capability, which will soon





Murray Forbes, avionics technician, with donated radios for the Cessna 150

be required for most aircraft operating in the United States.

In Canada, we have several other developments. The Cessna 206 floatplane, which is being overhauled at Skytek Aircraft Services for deployment to Manaus, Brazil, to support Amazon Lifesavers Ministry, has been making tremendous progress. This is because of the volunteer service of Sean De Asis, a young man from California. When Sean heard about AWA, he



called to see what he could do to help, since he recently completed his A&P mechanics training. After some planning, we invited him to Canada to work on the U.S. registered floatplane with Keith Swartz. Thankfully, Keith and Elsie, his wife, offered room

and board for a month, as well. During Sean's month in the hangar, the left wing was completely overhauled and significant progress was made on several of the control surfaces. Elsewhere, the propeller has been fully overhauled and the engine has been disassembled for inspection.

Also in Canada, the Cessna 150, "Adrian's Legacy," is rapidly nearing completion. Ray Young and Eldon Bauer have been taking advantage of the warm spring weather and have completed the painting in the striking yellow and blue AWA colors. Other volunteers, Ryan Kennedy and Esteban Serrat, have been working on the installation of new cables and pulleys, and structural assembly is underway. We have also been blessed with the donation of a ready-to-install avionics package from Murray Forbes, from Kelowna, BC. This airplane needs a bit more funding to bring it to completion and ready to train our mission pilots.

In St. Louis, Missouri, at Wings of Hope, work is underway on the Cessna 182, preparing it for deployment to Nicaragua, this summer or fall. A STOL kit, wing extensions, folding seats, oversize tires, and a number of other modifications will configure this aircraft into a bush plane.

Moving over to Coshocton, Ohio, the dedicated team at MMS (Missionary Maintenance Services) is working diligently on our flagship Cessna 182, the Pathfinder Plane. It is undergoing its overhaul after many years and 2,500 hours of service in Guyana. New paint, upgraded avionics, overhauled engine, and propeller, plus a thorough mechanical refurbishment, will prepare it for deployment later this year, to again be captained by Laura LaBore over the islands of the Philippines.

Over the last few months we have seen a miraculous shift in resources to help in deploying AWA's mission aircraft. Each aircraft project requires a great deal of financial resources, skilled labor, and quality facilities. It is with grateful hearts that we thank all of the hard-working mechanics, who collectively put in thousands of hours each year working on AWA's aircraft fleet, keeping them safe for flying in service for Jesus.

Jud Wickwire lives in British Columbia, Canada and services as AWA's vice-president of operations







# Teamwork Makes the Difference

**E**veryone tends to groan as they go from the sitting-to-standing position, or have to stoop, or reach for something. That is because everyone is SORE!



Academy students playing with the children during one of the Vacation Bible School programs

The Okanagan Adventist Academy (OKAA) arrived a couple of weeks ago to help build the mission house. About a week and a half before, Travis and Michelle Maloney arrived to head up the project. Travis is a contractor and we are grateful for his expertise. Michelle is a nurse, and impressed everyone with what a tough worker she is. We all worked together as a team.

Our family has never built a house. Before we

knew it, we were heaving pick axes and shovels, digging out trenches for the foundation. Next came the mixing of cement and hauling it in wheel barrels through the dust and heat to be poured in the forms. The six of us, plus Edgar Espinosa, who has been the care-taker of the airbase for the past nine years, worked long hard days to get the foundation ready before OKAA came.

We were SO happy when OKAA arrived to help us out! The walls quickly went up on the foundation and it was exciting to see the house take shape. One day Bill excitedly said, “HEY, the house is casting a shadow!” Where once was an empty field, was now the beginning of a house and its shadow.

The OKAA students did a great job, and not much complaining was heard, even though the conditions were tough—HOT and DUSTY. They worked on one of three projects—the mission house, painting an existing AWA house where the Espinosas live, or building a new CR (“comfort room”/“bathroom”) for the church. This bathroom required digging a hole six feet deep and was not for the faint at heart. Jud Wickwire, who is vice-president of operations, was in charge of that project. He and his family were here to help, as well. We were team mates in Guyana for five years, and it was fun to work together again.





## PHILIPPINE REPORT

Academy students working on the LaBore's home in Palawan, Philippines

After working most of the day, the OKAA team would then wash up and head to the school where they held Vacation Bible School programs for the village children.

Once OKAA's time with us came to a close, we said a heartfelt, "Good-bye," and quickly said, "Hello," to Chetwynd Academy's group, also from Canada.

We were so happy for them to come and continue to lend a hand. We enjoyed working with them and they were also good sports with the tough conditions.

We are in a drought here on the island and the well ran dry. Every night we would take barrels to town and fill them up to use for water, which made washing dishes and clothes by hand rather interesting. Your clothes get just a shade cleaner when there's not enough water to rinse with.

Chetwynd continued with the same projects. On their last workday, we had a massive undertaking. We had to pour cement for the second story porch, which required quick work. We had to finish without the cement hardening between each pouring. The cement was hauled in buckets up the scaffolding to the top. Once the cement was dumped into the molds, the buckets were sent back down for a refill. Everyone was a trooper; we worked through lunch, and tried to keep hydrated and energized with water, snacks and yellow watermelon. We did it, though!

Like OKAA, Chetwynd also cleaned up at the end of the day and held VBS programs for the children, who LOVED both academy groups. As the AWA truck drove through town, the children all would shout out, "HELLLLLLLOOOOOO," and eagerly wave. As the Canadian students drove up to the school where the program was held, the children would run up and excitedly greet them. Even now, after all of the academy groups left, we receive the same greetings as we drive through town in the truck. We've even had some new

faces show up at Sabbath School because of the VBS programs.

We are SO grateful for all the volunteers who came to make all of this possible. Even after the schools groups returned to Canada, Travis brought in a construction team—the Ziesmer family, Jaden Heck, and Kevin Boerschinger and his son, Solomon. Their expertise in concrete construction was great.

Until we have a place to live, it has been challenging to begin what we came to do in the Philippines. Most of our belongings are still in the city, packed up in boxes, and we are camping. Getting the mission house built will be huge. We aren't finished with it yet; without the help of the precious volunteers, we would *not* be this far along.

Volunteers are so important to the success of Adventist World Aviation. Many things would go unfinished, or would take much longer to fulfill without those who do volunteer. In addition to the construction of our home in Palawan, volunteers help AWA in the maintenance of our fleet of aircraft, representing AWA at conventions and events, answering telephone calls and other clerical tasks in the corporate office, calling donors to say "thank you" for their financial donations, and assisting in other areas.

Again, THANK YOU!

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





# Arctic Waves

Life (and death) sure has been happening in Shungnak, Alaska. Our daily activities keep us busy as we provide much-needed encouragement and spiritual guidance to those in the village.

Recently a number of our friends passed away, for various reasons. One was through suicide, followed by the “natural” death of a beloved elderly woman, who was a very close friend of ours in the community. Prior to her death, we visited this woman and her husband nearly every week.

Then, the pastor of the local Friends’ church recently decided to move back to his home with his family. With this happening, the elders of the Friends’ church asked me to perform the evening services. They still attend our Thursday-night sing-alongs and have joined in with our Bible studies on the book of Revelation. The last two Sunday evenings I shared about Christ our Creator and His oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Please keep Sunday evenings in your prayers, as it is no secret that I am a Seventh-day Adventist. It is obvious that God has opened this door, allowing our family to be a witness to the members of this church. The trust between our Seventh-day Adventist church, our family, the Friends’ church, and the Shungnak community has grown tremendously. Pray for me that I would lift up Christ and share boldly.

In addition to our outreach within the Friends’ church, is our future outreach through our Christian radio station. We have been raising funds for our radio project. Recently, our friend, Ryan Wheeler, came to our village to begin the initial submission of our

application for an FM license. We are still in need of additional funds, but have enough to begin the application process. We hope that before next winter our radio station will be fully operational, and will be sharing the Third Angels’ Message throughout the rural Alaska regions surrounding Shungnak. Please keep this project in your prayers. This station will be well heard in our village. We thank God for the “arctic waves” that will soon be sharing His love and message of hope and salvation.

Thank you for your prayers and monthly financial support for our Alaskan outreach. Without your partnership, we would not be able to serve as God’s missionaries in the Arctic Circle.

Anthony and Airen Sherman serve on the frontlines as mission “pioneers” in the small community of Shungnak in the northwest corner of Alaska.



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# Answering the Call



Vonzell and Gwen Chancy standing in front of AWA's Cessna 206, with the village of Selawik in the background.

Even though Alaska is part of the United States, for many it is still considered a vast mission field. Missionaries are needed in many regions, especially in the Arctic Circle regions, to share Jesus and His message of hope and salvation.

Vonzell and Gwen Chancy are considering the “Call of the Wild” of Alaska, where several mission opportunities are currently open for short-term or longer commitments. The village of Selawik is one such opening. The missionaries who have been there can only be there during the winter. As a result, Adventist World Aviation is recruiting couples who are available in the summer

for up to a five-month commitment. The Chancys have answered our call for a portion of this time.

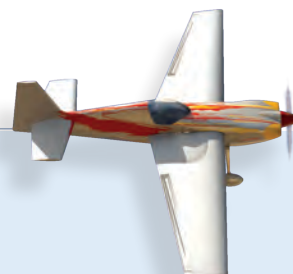
Recently, the Chancys were in Guyana on a short-term basis to assist in the project there. Once they finished their commitments in Guyana, they began looking into other opportunities that could be available to them through AWA. When the needs in Alaska were shared with them, they became excited and began praying about it. Then, they took a short trip to Alaska to meet the AWA missionaries and check things out. It didn't take long for them to realize that this was a mission field that could utilize their skills and talents. Vonzell is a pilot and Gwen is a nurse practitioner—both are extremely needed in Selawik.

The challenges of living in the remote areas include food-sourcing, high utility costs, working cross-culturally, staying warm, and making a lasting contribution to God's kingdom in disciple-making. With God's help, the Chancys will be able to meet these challenges and help bringing villagers to Christ. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as the entire Alaska project.

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



## 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).



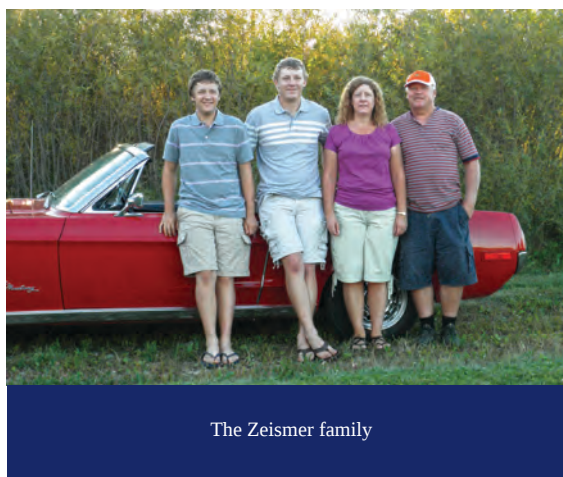
# Volunteering Puts You in Harmony with Jesus

Jeff and Michelle Zeisner grew up in the Lena, Wisconsin, area. They are the parents of two sons, Alex and Derek. Both Alex and Derek graduated from Wisconsin Academy. Then, Alex went to Walla Walla University and graduated with a degree in computer engineering. Derek is currently attending Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee as a business and accounting student.

The Zeisners are strong believers in Adventist education and love to be involved with young people. As a young person, Jeff watched nearly all of his Christian counterparts leave the church for one reason or another; he often wondered why they choose to leave, whereas he choose to stay involved in the church.

When his own children grew up, he determined to give them every opportunity to create their own relationship with Jesus. When his ability as a carpenter became an asset to his church and school,

he determined to say “yes” as often as possible. Over a period of four years, he estimates that he volunteered 4,500 hours to build Sabbath School rooms and a fellowship hall on the Lena Seventh-day Adventist Church. But he would be the first to point out that his wife, Michelle, is the one who makes it all possible through her budgeting of home finances and hard work. At times she was working more than one job so Jeff could go



The Zeisner family

“play” at their church.

Over the years, Jeff’s parents, Bob and Linda Zeisner, have been on many mission trips; yet, Jeff





Katie Zeismer, Daniel Gilbert, Nick Zeismer, Beth Zeismer, Sherry Goss



Katie Zeismer, Daniel Gilbert, Nick Zeismer, Beth Zeismer, Sherry Goss



Sherry Goss, Katie Zeismer, Nick Zeismer, Daniel Gilbert

and Michelle never felt the call to leave the homeland mission field—until now. Perhaps it was having young children that held them back. Or, maybe the needs in their local community and church was their mission field for a time. Maybe it was the strong family ties that kept them close to home.

Then, one Sabbath a group of students, who had recently been on a mission trip, gave inspiring stories of their adventures during the church service. Also, among this group of people on a mission trip were other members of Jeff’s family—his sister, Jodi; brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Darlene; and friends, Travis and Michelle Maloney. The enthusiasm the group shared had an infectious effect on the church.

Then, when I mentioned to Jeff the need for workers in the Philippines to construct the mission home for Bill and Laura LaBore and family, he immediately said, “Yes,” even without talking to his wife, Michelle about it. She was also inspired to go, as well.

Although Alex was fresh out of school and in a prime position to find a job, his immediate responses when asked if he would like to go was, “Yes!”

The hardest part for the the Zeismer’s was leaving Derek behind at Southern Adventist University. But,

they trusted that God would care for him while they were in mission service for Him.

The Lena Seventh-day Adventist Church is very mission-minded, and continues to encourage their young people to stay involved with church activities. The Lena Pathfinders have attended the North American Division and International camporees, which is where we first learned about Adventist World Aviation. We watched our Pathfinders work on the first plane for AWA. So, when we were asked to hand out literature for AWA during the Suring Labor Day parade, we were excited to help. We enjoy doing community service projects and helping others.

As one of the Pathfinders stated, “Being able to get out into the community is awesome. It puts us in harmony with Jesus by being able to spend time doing fun things with other Christian youth.”

Travis and Michelle Maloney are the construction coordinators for AWA.





# Mingling with a Purpose

**T**he truck bumped along the dusty road, carrying a full load of happy people. I carefully negotiated the ditches and hills as we drove into the foothills for a Zone 1 Fellowship.

A “Zone Fellowship” happens once a year when all the churches in that zone gather together to worship. It’s a wonderful time to connect with others you may not have seen for awhile.

At the end of the road I parked the truck, and everyone walked a mile to the church. Those who rode their motorcycles were able to take the road all the way. Some only had transportation to the main road and walked the two miles. Another brought their water buffalo and cart, laden with people, water, and food for potluck.

They gathered at the “Simbahan” (church). People

filled the benches inside, and spilled outside onto the porch. People also sat on benches that had been made on the side of the church, under the mango tree, and sang along with the others as my son, Von, played the guitar.

After church we all gathered for a bountiful potluck consisting of a lot of rice and fish dishes. The theme of the day was “Precious Jewels,” and the children led most of the parts of the service. When the afternoon service was over, we walked back to the parked truck, stopping for a moment by a natural spring to fill up on water.

Our truck was again on the move, and I drove to the home of a church member’s family. Nelson, the approximately 30-year-old man of the home, had suddenly died. He had been digging a well, and just







Church members enjoying a bountiful potluck



Rayline Espinosa playing guitar while church members sing praises



## PHILIPPINE REPORT

collapsed and died. He left behind a young wife, and six children, ages six down to a one-year-old. His still form lay in the casket, which was covered, except for a glass window for people to look at him. Candles burned next to the casket, and a cup with money for donations sat next to the candles. His widow held their youngest son.

Bello, a church member, had asked me to his relative's home, because they had no one to pray for the family. They asked me to hold a service for the wake. Everyone joined in singing and prayer for the family and I spoke about the promises in the Bible regarding those who die. Bello had been so grateful to Nelson, because not too long ago, one of Bello's twins had gotten sick and died. Nelson had done a lot for Bello during this difficult time, and now he wanted to return the favor to Nelson's family.

In the Philippines, it is customary to hold a wake for up to two weeks. The body is embalmed and usually kept at the family's home during this time. The family asked me to perform the burial service the following week.

In the Philippines, there are always opportunities to share Jesus with others and show His love for them. The AWA team in the Philippines appreciates your daily prayers and monthly financial support so we may continue to share the gospel message.

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



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# The Little Boat That Could

**N**o toothpaste, toothbrushes, slippers, or shoes. As I am sitting on my bed, writing this article, I am hoping to catch a breeze from at least one of the windows in this room. It is 94 degrees with 64 percent humidity, which makes the heat index 112. It is hot; it is dry; but it is not boring. There is always something happening. Either the devil is causing problems or we are seeing God's plans in action. We constantly pray that we stay out of the devil's way and stay in tune with God, allowing Him to work through us.

When we moved to Guyana, we were given a small rowboat and engine. It has been stored in Georgetown because we didn't really know what to do with it. It takes quite a bit of logistical maneuvering to take something of its size to Mabaruma, and we didn't

know anyone who could really use it.

About four months ago, Brother John told us about a relative of his who lives near the Venezuelan border. They wanted supplies to teach children about God and wanted Brother John to come and teach them.

The "wheels" started turning in our heads. We told Brother John about the boat, and he thought that it would work. It is not fast moving, so it will take almost two hours to get where he needs to go. Since the boat is big enough, he has space to take two other people with him.

Kimbia, the boat that normally delivers supplies to our area, has been dry docked since before Christmas. As a result, only one boat, which is privately owned and quite smaller, arrives once a month. In addition, it is hard to get space on this boat and it is usually





## GUYANA REPORT



placed at a location where it is difficult to pick up supplies from the boat or put supplies on the boat, as things are not stored at the dock. Any supplies that are to travel on the boat when it leaves must be delivered a few days before the boat departs. As a result of these complications, Greg began working with a broker for these arrangements.

One time when Greg went into Georgetown, he found time to move our boat from the storage container to the broker's yard around his home. This way, the broker could access the boat when Greg was not in town.

Then one day Greg heard that a boat was coming and it might have room on it for the boat. Greg called

the broker to check things out. Sure enough, there was room. To transport the boat from the yard to the boat, we had to get a horse-drawn wagon, because it was too big to fit on a canter truck. We also decided to have a small trailer delivered at the same time. So, they pulled the trailer behind the wagon.

The boat left on a Thursday and arrived in Maburima on Friday. Then, it took a few days for the boat to be off-loaded. Finally, on Monday afternoon Greg was able to pick up the boat and deliver it to where Brother John was planning to store the boat.

The motor for the boat was brought back on the plane with Greg. It needed to be serviced, but finally they got it working.

Brother John and Greg took the boat out for its "maiden" voyage. Not all the kinks had been worked out, but there is hope that soon this little boat will be a "sailing vessel" for Jesus. God has plans for it and its use in mission service to His people.

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





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# The Harvest is Ripe in Guyana

**“M**y brethren, count it all a joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3).

The Holy Spirit is working on hearts and minds in the jungle community of Barabina, which is virtually inaccessible by vehicle during the rainy season. A good-sized community lives here and our teams of missionaries and lay workers have sowed and planted; now the harvest is ripening.

From the many Bible studies conducted a few years ago, a donation of land and construction materials to build a small church resulted. Baptisms of old and young folks are transpiring. More Bible studies have begun and more have been requested as families and neighbors are coming together desiring to know more about our loving God and His Word. Couples are being led to honor God by joining together in matrimony

instead of co-habiting. Marriage classes, based on godly principles, are being taught. Children playing in the cricket fields know us by name and sometimes ride with us, if only to attend Sabbath School.

Despite all the good progress, the devil is stepping up his attacks in many areas, creating chaos and trying to disrupt the good work being accomplished in Barabina. A small number of influential officials are reclaiming the land on which the church is built, to expand the playing area of the cricket field. People on the verge of a decision for Christ are swayed by social, family, and work pressures to not make a commitment to Jesus. Other attempts to disparage and derail the good work are underway. The Bible reminds us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon. Let us lift





## GUYANA REPORT

each other up in intercessory prayer to earnestly safeguard the work of all His people. Until then, we must not be discouraged in anything that interrupts the blessings. We need to persevere and continue fighting the good fight. Our blessings and good works must not be overshadowed by the obstacles we face. Through Christ our trials will draw us to His Word and a closer relationship with Him. Looking not to self but to Christ, our faith is strengthened.

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake

thee” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Through your continued prayers and support, our missionary teams are able to reach the people of Barabina and prayerfully make a difference in their lives for eternity.

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





Mary Mandujano-Guifarro and her two children, volunteering at AWA's open house.

# Volunteers, We Couldn't Do It Without You!

**A**cts 20:35 states: "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Simply put, this exemplifies just one instance where Christ asked us to act in love toward one another, volunteering ourselves to benefit others. Here at Adventist World Aviation, we greatly appreciate those people who not only make monetary donations, but donate their time and energy. Nothing that AWA does would be possible without the help of people who dedicate their free time, working behind the scenes, oftentimes without major recognition. Volunteers keep our aircraft functioning in top condition, our missionaries well taken care of, and our events running smoothly.

I have personally watched our volunteers in action. One in particular pours much of herself into this work; it is truly a blessing to work with her during events. Mary, a member of a church in Waukesha, Wisconsin, has volunteered for us on a number of occasions. My first encounter with her was at the annual food fair of Milwaukee Junior Academy. The school was generous enough to allow us to have a booth, sell Filipino food, and advocate our ministry. When asked, Mary kindly stepped up to orchestrate the entire event for us. When she showed up, not only did she bring delicious food, she brought a cotton candy machine and volunteer youth who were willing to run it. This was such a blessing, because our administration wouldn't have been able to pull it off the way she did. We quickly realized that she is a valuable person who really loves our ministry.

Nearly a month later, on November 22 of 2015, we hosted an open house at our corporate office. However, being late November in Wisconsin, on the previous night, we received eight inches of snow. Nonetheless, we worked through the cold and carried

on with the event, as did Mary. She helped us plan several weeks in advance. Mary provided a Snoopy costume to appeal to the children and brought food, along with other volunteers who also brought food. She advertised in her local church and sent out flyers to Milwaukee Junior Academy, helping to spread the word about our open house event. In addition, she helped conduct the activities and made all of our guests feel welcome. At this event Pastor Ric provided Young Eagle flights, which was an unexpected treat. However, without the help of Mary and other volunteers like her, we wouldn't have been able to conduct such a fun event. She impacted our office more than she may have realized, and we genuinely appreciate it.

Most people may not notice the amount of help that is needed within AWA like Mary had. We exist because of the gracious people who are dedicated to helping accomplish the Lord's work. Volunteers make it possible for AWA to stretch each dollar and be financially wise, while conducting mandatory projects that need to be accomplished. If you're interested in getting involved, we would greatly appreciate your help.

Megan Mike is AWA's Executive Administrative Assistant







# Thunderbird's Aviation Program Is Taking Off!

**T**he private pilot ground school at Thunderbird Adventist Academy is back in session and going well. An enthusiastic group of young men have been tackling topics in the classroom and embracing the realization that flying starts long before you ever walk out to the plane. The new engine is in the Cessna 172 and running quite well. The airplane underwent significant maintenance during the semester and the students are excited about the improvements made and the ADS-B in/out avionics upgrade, which became available through a generous donation from local friends of the program.

When the ADS-B work is complete, we will have traffic and weather information streamed directly into the cockpit on iPads. The FAA has made the ADS-B upgrades mandatory in the United States by 2020 for anyone who flies into certain types of controlled airspace. With our operations amidst the complex and busy Phoenix, Arizona, area airspace, we absolutely qualify. We will be grateful to get this accomplished well ahead of the deadline, and will benefit from the increased layer of safety and resources it brings to our operations.

To get real-world exposure with their class studies, students received a special tour of the local Scottsdale, Arizona, airport air traffic control tower. They observed controllers in action, and the variety of general aviation aircraft that they handle, such as small training airplanes to executive jets, with a mix of helicopters, as well. It was great to meet some of the controllers our students will actually talk to on the radio when flying.

While we are facing unexpected delays in getting the hangar constructed, we are working through the process and it has become our top priority. With

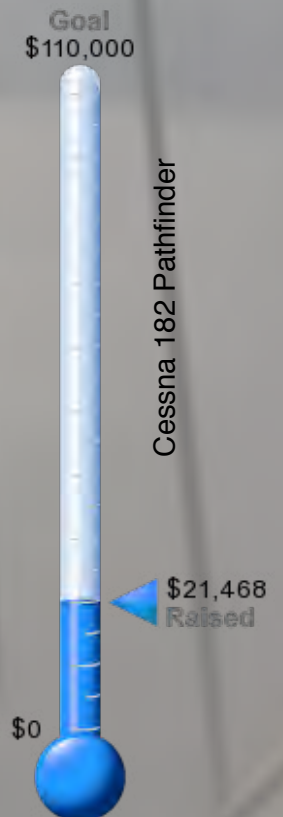
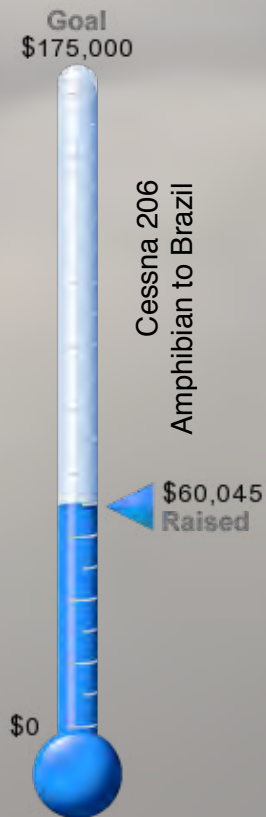
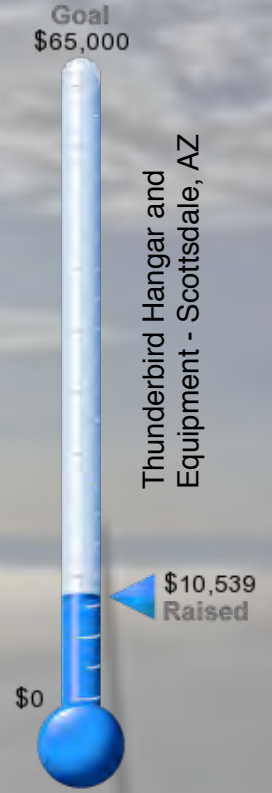
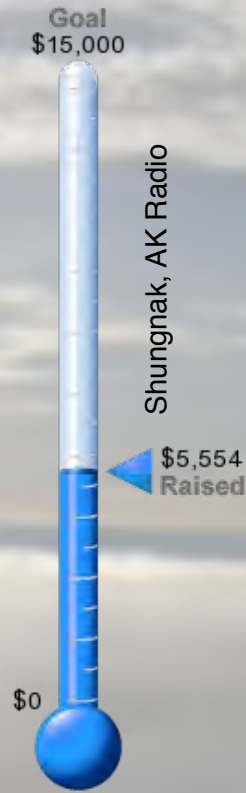
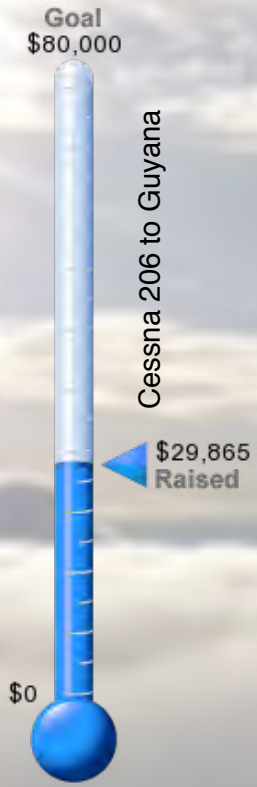
the structure in place, we will be able to work more efficiently, and our training program's flight and maintenance operations will be based there. We all are looking forward to that, and also solicit your prayers for continued momentum and the timely completion of this hangar project at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

Current aviation students, who satisfactorily complete ground training this semester and pass the FAA written test this summer, will start their flight training at the beginning of the next school year. Most of the students in ground school are working toward that goal. There are multiple students who could benefit from assistance through the AWA-Thunderbird Worthy Student Fund. A big thank you to those who have already started partnering with us to assist these young people with their training. We appreciate your prayers, interest, and support of our program. If you'd like to learn more about helping our students or the development of this program, feel free to contact me at [dina@flyawa.org](mailto:dina@flyawa.org).

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



# PROJECT NEEDS





# Make the World a Better Place

**I** think most people like the idea of doing something to make the world a better place. Many just don't know how, or think they don't have the resources to do so.

Two years ago we ran a story about a mother and her son, who had looked for things they weren't using, sold them, and contributed the money to mission projects, such as Adventist World Aviation.

This was a great idea and they had fun seeing how God helped them to sell the various items. They also had the satisfaction of knowing they were making a difference with their donation.

Maybe you have a car, a mower, some furniture, or other household items you not using and no longer need. Could you consider dedicating it to God's work and see if He will bless your efforts? Through an inexpensive ad in your local paper or on Craig's List, your items can be sold.

Recently, I needed to replace a motor on a rototiller, but could no longer get parts for it. My first thought was to throw the old motor away. However, I listed it on Craig's List,

thinking someone might need it for the remaining parts on it.

Sure enough, a man responded to my ad and drove 30 miles for it. He happily gave me \$10 for something I almost threw away. It was a \$10 donation to Adventist World Aviation.

Through a little creative thinking and some family or neighborhood fun, we can "make the world a better place."

Please consider including AWA in your estate plans. You will help make a difference in someone's life!

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 P.O. Box 444, Sullivan, WI 53178-0444.

## 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

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#### Ross D. Menzer

Roger W. Menzer

#### Loved Ones

Elizabeth L. Gonzales

#### Emil Schneider

Patricia L. Schneider

#### Elder Robert Folkenberg

Charles and Janet Schlunt

#### Elder Robert Folkenberg

Jerry and Joyce Kobliska

#### Dr. Robert W. Ringer, DDS

Marlene Ringer

#### Arnold N. White

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#### Opal Carlson

Annette Carlson

#### Benjamin Guerrero

Esther Guerrero

#### Irma Esther Avella

Esther Guerrero

#### Conroy Donesky

Arils Brooks

#### Myrtle Knopp

Grace L. Wetter

#### Herb Holmes

Jan Holmes Jewett

### In Honor of:

#### Dave Hensel

Elwin and Alma Liske

### Loved Ones

Mack and Virginia Caswell

### Jean Hildebrand

Betsy Phillips

### A Tribute to Jean Hildebrand's 90th Birthday

Birthday celebrations are always special. Especially when you are turning 90 years old. Jean Hildebrand recently celebrated her 90th birthday with many family and friends. It was Jean's request that no gifts be given to her; rather, she requested that donations be sent to Adventist World Aviation for the completion of the church building and the chapel for the prisoners on Palawan Island. Both Jean and her husband, Eugene, were missionaries on Palawan Island for several years. During that time, they started a little clinic, which is now a hospital. As a result of her birthday wishes for no personal gifts, her family and friends contributed \$1,375—enough to cover the cost of the church in Palawan.







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