



VOL 24 | ISSUE 1 | FIRST QUARTER 2018

# Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

## Earning His WINGS With AWA



INSIDE: AWA EXPLORES UGANDA, PG. 8

FIRST QUARTER 2018

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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:

# New Year — New Lists

**H**ow is your list coming along? You know, those pesky little vows that we all resolved to do starting January 1st. If you're like the rest of us, you are setting new starting points for the year.

I was curious about what "we the people" resolved to do this year and so I checked and found ...

come to? In this new "selfie", "me" generation with iPads and iPhones, I can't help but notice the list is mostly about "what I can do for me." The description listed in 2 Tim. 3:1-4 certainly gives a picture of what we see around us every day.

"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

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## Love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:11,12 NKJV)

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## THE TOP TEN LIST:

- Eat better — 37 percent
- Exercise more — 37 percent
- Spend less money — 37 percent
- Self-care (e.g. getting more sleep) — 24 percent
- Read more books — 18 percent
- Learn a new skill — 15 percent
- Get a new job — 14 percent
- Make new friends — 13 percent
- New hobby — 13 percent
- Focus more on appearance — 12 percent
- \* Focus on relationship — 12 percent
- \* Cut down on cigarettes/alcohol — 9 percent
- \* Go on more dates — 7 percent
- \* Focus less on appearance — 3 percent

"Wow, this is very telling," I said to myself. What has this nation

Three glaring things that are missing from the list above are: God, Family, and Giving.

It wasn't many years ago when resolutions were made up more about families helping others and building a better relationship with God. Those were the intentions which seemed to dominate the New Year's lists only a generation ago.

How is it with you? What purpose drives your list?

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3,4 NKJV)

Did you know God's Top Ten List can be found in Exodus 20:1-17, but they are summed up in Matthew 22:

37 Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Reviewing God’s Top Ten, we see that the first commandment deals with a loving God. It starts with commandment #4 which is ALL about Whom we worship and why. If we choose to worship God alone the rest will come automatically. And so, counting down from four to three, two and one will be the natural progression. We will choose not to take His name in vain. We will have no other gods before us; we will not want to worship any image (which is “whatever” takes His place), etc. These create a loving relationship with our Creator.

As for the second commandment Jesus gave us, “to love our neighbor”, beginning with commandment #5, Honor your Mom and Dad! Wow. I guess my neighborhood really does start at home. When I read the rest, they are not that difficult to understand why we should not lie, covet, steal, kill or be unfaithful to my spouse. They also become the natural progression of loving my neighbor.

Loving your neighbor is what we here at AWA are all about ...

Two AWA missionaries were making a hasty trip to town to purchase supplies for the Lifestyle Center. On the way, they were approached by a man who asked them to stop and pray for a group of people that had gathered at a graveside. They went to the small grave and found the body of a tiny infant girl wrapped for burial. How do you express compassion in such a situation? There is nothing that you can really do, but the missionaries prayed with the group and sang songs with them. They explained that there is hope

in Jesus and that we will see our loved one again when our Lord comes to take us home. They gave what they could before continuing on their journey.

There is so little hope in many forgotten areas of the world. People who do not know the love of Jesus or understand why strangers would stop and offer kindness. People who are hurting, physically, mentally and spiritually need to know that there is hope. They need to be reached through the support that you share with your donations.

In closing, I suggest that you use God’s Top Ten to live this years’ resolutions out ... and if you have actualized them, might I suggest adding the following:

Make time for God in your life,


Make time for your family,

Finally, have more compassion for others.

Real joy comes from following God and His commandments.

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:11,12 NKJV)

We at AWA pray that you experience that joy.



Pastor Ric Swaningson,  
President/CEO



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# The Flight Plan

Welcome 2018! What a fresh feeling a new year brings. We hope all our readers are feeling a renewed mind, body and spirit!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

With a new year comes new team members! We praise God for bringing intelligent stewards to help AWA grow and to continue to reach the hard to reach.

### Doreen Stocker, Development Director



Doreen Stocker

Doreen has joined our AWA team at the corporate headquarters as our Development Director and will be focusing on increasing the awareness of and donations to our Wings for Humanity programs.

She most recently served as the Development and

Foundation Director for St. Luke's Elmore Medical Center in Mountain Home, Idaho. Her move to North Carolina came about due to her husband, Greg, accepting a job transfer to the area. Born and

raised in Minnesota, Doreen has also lived in Fargo, ND and this is the first time she has lived east of the Mississippi River.

The Stockers have four grown children and one granddaughter. They love spending time with family and friends, cooking and traveling to new places. In her free time, Doreen is a dedicated quilter and needleworker. She has taught classes to both adults and children to pass on the knowledge of traditional techniques.

Doreen has a degree in marketing from Moorhead State University, Moorhead, NC. She has extensive experience planning and participating in community events, storytelling through newsletter articles and working with volunteers and fundraisers. She is grateful and blessed to have the opportunity to be part of the AWA family and is looking forward to advancing our mission "bringing relief to those in need."

## 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. Episodes can be viewed on 3ABN on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) or you can view them all online on our website at <http://flyawa.org/videos/>

### **AWA Off the Grid Philippines**

This season “Off the Grid” features the LaBore’s transition from Guyana to their new mission in the Philippines.

They stepped out with Christ’s leading to a vacant mission base and joined the faithful Espinosa family in order to restart this mission aviation project from the ground up on the island of Palawan. They continue to work steadily to transform the land into an active aviation mission base to support outlying islands with aid, supplies and ministry. Follow along as they start the arduous task of building the Palawan Mission House, brick by brick.

Watch it from the beginning at <https://youtu.be/yY6AJrBcm6s>



This May, AWA will be featured at the **Carolina Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska, NC from May 27 to June 2**. What an amazing privilege to be part of this conference! Let us know if you’re going to be in the area, we would love to get together!

### **SUPPORT AWA THROUGH AMAZON SMILE**

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 <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3242404>!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

AWA is looking to catch some SUN ’n FUN in 2018! We will be at the **Sun ’N Fun Fly-In Expo** from **April 10 to 15** in Lakeland, Florida. Hope to see you there!

Jenna Volkwyn is the Administrative Assistant for AWA Canada.



**HELP WANTED**

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

Anyone interested should also have a strong desire to share the message of Jesus. Please send resume to Adventist World Aviation, 3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3, Smithfield, NC 27577, or by e-mail to [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org).

**COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:  
AWA MISSION PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS**

# Sweet Success!

**I** finally completed one of my biggest goals for academy! It came with a huge sense of accomplishment to now be a licensed private pilot! For me it wasn't always an easy journey. Portions of ground school were very challenging, but getting to fly was a great incentive to keep me motivated. It took commitment and perseverance to be successful on the ground and in the air. I found that you have to be willing to put in the effort and keep working hard when it gets difficult. There's no better feeling than being able to fly an aircraft all on your own with the confidence that you know exactly what you're doing.

Flying has brought new adventures and some interesting destinations. My favorite airport destination

so far is Pinal Airpark, between Phoenix and Tucson. It is one of the largest commercial aviation boneyards in the USA. When I flew in, I was able to park the AWA Cessna Skyhawk right next to a KLM Boeing 747. That was awesome! I'm glad I got the chance recently to share a visit to the boneyard with my grandfather as he used to fly small planes also.

I have a passion for aviation and there is no better feeling than being able to share it with others. Helping out with aviation-related activities has been a lot of fun. I look forward to being able to take friends on trips for lunch and scenic flights around Arizona during the rest of my senior year. My goal for the future is to continue pursuing aviation in college and eventually become a professional pilot.

I also hope to have the opportunity to experience aviation in the mission field at some point. I'm currently exploring the possibility of visiting AWA's project in Guyana to see mission aviation up close. I plan to continue my flight training at Andrews University and get all my licenses and ratings to join the corporate side of aviation.

The AWA program has been extremely valuable to me. I feel that I've received some of the best flight training available, based on cost savings and a Christian atmosphere. I would not have been able to afford training anywhere else. Aircraft rental of \$100 an hour isn't cheap, but it's much easier on the pocketbook than other



Becoming a pilot was a great experience.

The C172 next to a Boeing 747 at Pinal.

flight training options in the area. The fact that students aren't charged for the instructor's time is probably one of the key parts of the program. If I used a different flight training provider nearby, I would have been charged anywhere from \$65 to \$85 per hour just for the instructor, plus upwards to \$170 per hour for aircraft rental. Scholarship assistance along the way made reaching my goal a reality.

**A big thank you to all those supporters who help make the AWA program possible for students like me.**

Being in a Christian environment was a blessing also. I felt that I had God on my side throughout all the stages of my training experience. And I will never forget the humbling feeling flying over the majestic red rocks around Sedona, Arizona. It is amazing to be able to see God's creation with a new perspective.

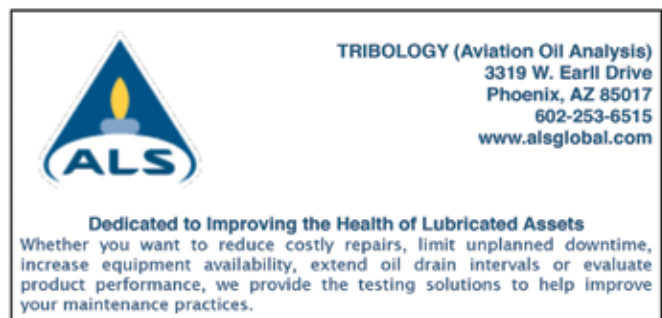
One of the logistical challenges during training was the time that it took to move the airplane from its parking place on campus over to the airport. We had to add about 45 minutes to every flight just for moving the plane. I was not charged for this time, but as a student with limited hours in the day, it was difficult to spend the 45 minutes in a slow procession from one point to the other when I could have been

doing homework. Overall, I have really enjoyed my experience in the TAA program. By observing Mrs. Dina Simmons and Mr. Nik Nagy, I know that my safety is their number one priority; followed closely by seeing me become successful as a student. I would definitely recommend this program to anyone looking for an affordable Christian flight program that is safe and successful.

I'm excited to learn the hangar project is finally starting to come together to solve some of those logistical challenges we have here. Actually, there are plans to formally kick off the project this spring during the alumni weekend at Thunderbird Adventist Academy. TAA alumni and AWA friends interested in aviation are invited to **Save the Date** and join us for our aviation breakfast event, **April 8, at 8:30 a.m. on the Thunderbird campus.**

For more info, you can email [thunderbird@flyawa.org](mailto:thunderbird@flyawa.org).

Robbie Hakes is a senior at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.



# ADRA and AWA in Uganda

**B**ehind me the Eastern sky was just beginning to reveal the morning light, while to my right, far in the distance, lightning flashed against angry dark clouds that hovered over mountain silhouettes. In front of me an enormous full moon reflected brilliantly on the glassy surface of the Nile River. The scene came gently to life as a fisherman pushed his tiny dugout canoe into the gentle current and began paddling across the silvery surface to the far shore.

There are many striking places in the world, but Africa embodies dramatic landscapes like nowhere else. I stood there soaking up the richness of the scene as the light began to reveal more and more details and soon the small ferry that we had risen so early to catch began to cross over to our side.

Rolling off the ferry we began our fourth day of bouncing wildly over the remote road network of Northern Uganda. The dusty ride was beginning to reveal some of the potential benefits of air support to Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) personnel. ADRA Uganda Country Director, Charles

Aguilar, had approached me over a year before about the possibility of AWA providing air support to their projects. As with all expansion considerations for AWA, we look for invitations and watch for God's hand in preparing the way. With the 30 year anniversary celebrations of ADRA working in Uganda taking place in October, that seemed to be the ideal opportunity to not just visit, but meet with many ADRA representatives that would be there as well.

Our trip so far had been to a number of ADRA field offices and their nearby airstrips. It was fascinating to see the various ways that ADRA was finding to improve the conditions and circumstances of communities. Micro finance, water, hygiene, agriculture, education and even community driven programs to prevent violence against women. The single common thread, though, was the consistent emphasis on empowerment; each program has a goal of a sustainable improvement of individuals where they take ownership of the results for themselves and their community.



Jud Wickwire and Charles Aguilar on the Nile River ferry

The most poignant example was the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement; the largest in Africa, an astounding 275,000 people displaced from South Sudan! Even here though, in the midst of such crisis, empowerment is considered the highest priority for ADRA. For an example, ADRA has developed a system for manufacturing charcoal briquettes using readily available and renewable resources. Not only can the sponsored groups produce their own cooking fuel and stoves, but they can also sell them to generate a small income.

As we contemplated the role aviation could play in support of ADRA Uganda, we had one final airstrip to visit in Arua. We nearly missed it, and the drivers had to make a U-turn to get back. We chatted with the security guard about looking around on the ramp, but it



Typical rural transportation.



The challenging roads of Northern Uganda.

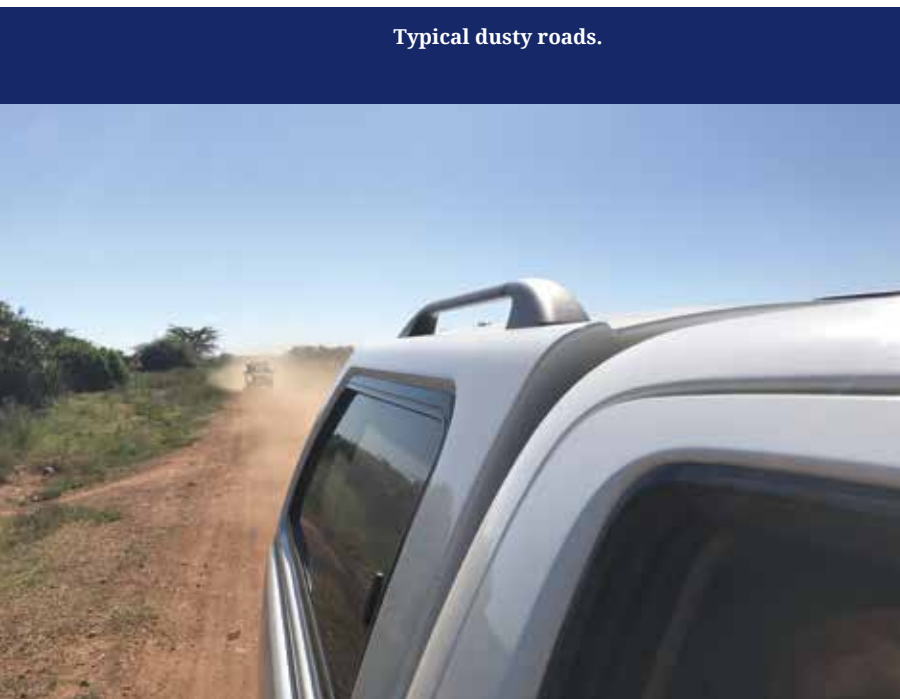
was late in the afternoon so we didn't expect him to have the time to stop. However, another guard showed up and insisted that we take a walk around. As we did, a Cessna Caravan landed and rolled up near us. It was owned by Samaritan's Purse, another mission aviation group. As the pilot and mechanic finished putting the airplane away, I walked up and introduced myself. The mechanic promptly asked me if I knew Kyle Stevenson. Somewhat surprised, I said, "Yes,

Kyle and his wife, Rebecca, have recently applied to AWA, and their applications are actually being reviewed right now." It turns out Mark worked in the same shop as Kyle in Oregon before entering mission service in Africa. Kyle had recently told Mark about his application to AWA. Divine appointments like this are always fascinating to me as this was an impossible meeting. Mark isn't even based here in Uganda — he is over in Kenya. He has never been here before, and

would only be here one night. There was no more than a five minute opportunity for our paths to cross here at the Arua airstrip.

To add even more significance to the event, when I told Kyle of meeting Mark not only was he amazed but he went on to tell me that he had wanted to include Mark as a reference on his application, but he was concerned that we wouldn't be able to make contact with him!

The conclusion we reached for AWA's initial entry into Uganda is a Cessna 182 converted to an efficient diesel engine that burns inexpensive and readily available Jet fuel. In Uganda Jet fuel costs 80% less than AvGas. AWA has a number of Cessna 182's, however, none of them are the correct model year to be eligible for the diesel conversion. This is again where it



Typical dusty roads.



Local village children.

is exciting to be in the path of God's work. Just a few weeks after returning from Uganda, we had a call from the owner of a later model Cessna 182 who wanted to donate his plane for the Lord's work. Not only is this the perfect year model to be eligible for the diesel, but the engine is nearing its recommended overhaul time — a perfect time to remove it for the firewall forward conversion! I had the privilege of picking up this airplane in California near the end of 2017. A huge thank you to Gerald and Susan Wade for their generous donation!

These are just some of many stories of faith and generosity that move this unique ministry forward and

keep us focused on the Kingdom Assignment that we have been given. Will you consider donating to the diesel engine conversion for this airplane so that we can help ADRA to deliver meaningful aid programs to the people in Uganda? Your donation would be an investment in reaching God's children in remote Uganda.

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





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# Travel With a Mission

**S**wimming with whale sharks, skydiving, motorcycling on white sand along the beach, dashing under waterfalls, surfing in clear blue waters, throwing yourself out of a perfectly-working airplane (AKA parachuting) ... these guys wanted to do it all. And they ended up doing almost all of it!

Our visitors were Preston, Josiah and Mickey. They were seeking adventure, but they were also seeking something else: to give back to the community that they were coming to see. The trio wanted to actually experience the culture instead of

just taking pictures of it. They wanted to go deeper than what riding a tour bus and staying in a hotel could offer. That is why they contacted us to see if they could donate two weeks (half of their vacation time here) to help us out in whatever capacity we needed. We were delighted to have such fine young men come to visit!

Preston, Josiah and Mickey quickly dove into helping out by painting buildings, laying block, lugging groceries down long muddy roads, passing out donated clothing in the village, teaching in church and Sabbath School, and even washing dishes! One Sunday they had planned on going snorkeling, but they quickly changed plans when they heard that work needed to be done on the new church road ... so instead of swimming with the fishes, they spent their Sunday helping us lug big rocks in the sun. We were all very grateful for their help, and couldn't have done it without them!

Furrowing his brow, Mickey pondered a thought and then stated, "Well ... I really don't know too much about tying knots, but I'm happy to learn!" We had worked it out with the local school for the guys to teach a 30 minute class at the end of the day for about four days. Each guy would take one classroom of the upper grades and teach the subject, with one of us helping him, if needed. The first topic was tying knots, and each child was given a rope to practice on and take home. Although Mickey had just learned how to tie

Passing out donated clothes and shoes to those in the village.





**Mikey and Micah teaching kids how to tie knots.**



**Josiah, Preston and Mickey laying block for an outhouse.**

the knots only an hour before he taught the class, he looked like a pro up front. Preston with his infectious enthusiasm, was an instant hit in his classroom, and Josiah's calm demeanor immediately made them forget that he was a foreigner and they felt right at home with him.

Since we essentially live in a jungle, things like snakes, scorpions and poisonous centipedes are a real threat to all of us. Almost everyone cooks with chunks of activated charcoal, which is exciting, because most homes already have a remedy for these biting critters — right there in their kitchens. The guys demonstrated how to prepare the charcoal and how to use it. Jenny, our student missionary, later taught the teachers more ways to use charcoal so they could not only use it on themselves and their students, but also teach their students how to use it.

Ovens and the gas to run the ovens are out of most people's budget here — most cooking is done over fires. Kitchens are usually located apart from the main house to keep the smoke and soot away. Being able to eat bread is rare, but it's enjoyed by all. Banana bread is a special favorite! Josiah, Mickey and Preston showed the students how to cook banana bread by steaming it in a can over a fire. Large smiles spread across each face as they were handed a piece of their own to eat! Yum!

One day when we went to the school we couldn't teach because, there had been a miscommunication. The guys immediately started playing outdoor games with the kids and the kids loved it! Gaining the trust of the people here has been a challenge as they are

intimidated by foreigners. These three guys were a huge blessing as they were one of the first big steps we've been able to make in getting involved in the community. Last year when the two Canadian academies came to help build the house, they were able to hold a VBS at the school. That was a first baby step. This time our family was able to be more involved, and so we got a chance to really connect with the students and teachers. The kids immediately fell in love with the guys, and although the children couldn't always pronounce the American names correctly, they each had their "favorite" guy and would shout out their name as we drove by. When we drove up to the school in the mission truck, the children jumped up and down with excitement, waved their arms and shouted the names of the guys. Even now, we have noticed many barriers have broken down because of the willingness of the young men to come and share their time with us at the school. Word quickly spread around the village, and even adults smile more at us now and wave with a hearty "hello!" in their language.

Travel can be exciting — short-term missions can be exciting too! We are grateful that Preston, Josiah and Mickey took the opportunity to combine the two. They truly were a blessing to all of us here!

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



# “Bite Size” Donations

**H**ere is the opportunity to invest in the great work done by AWA at mission sites and at home. “Chews” the item that you want to help with.

## A \$25 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- Breakfast for 12 children
- School books for 5 students
- A handheld water filter for emergency access to clean drinking water
- A fruit tree for a mission orchard
- Assorted garden seeds
- Aviation Laboratories Metal Check Analysis kit

## A \$50 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- A propane tank to provide fuel for cooking
- Disposable medical supplies to refill an emergency first aid kit
- Schoolbooks for 10 students
- Fuel for mission boat or motorcycle use for transportation

## A \$100 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- Aviation fuel for a two-hour Medevac flight
- Shipping cost to send one large box of mission supplies to the Philippines Disaster preparedness kit with 3 days’ supplies for 2 people
- Spark plug
- A case of oil for an airplane



Teacher reading to school children.



Trees planted at mission outpost.

## A \$150 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- A 2-wheeled yard cart wheelbarrow
- A motorcycle tire
- A folding backboard for medical transports
- Food baskets for 5 needy families

## A \$200 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- An aircraft tire
- Aviation fuel for 1 four-hour Medevac flight

### A \$300 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- A fuel pump for a single engine plane
- An iPad for a mission pilot

### A \$500 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- A portable gas-powered-generator aircraft battery

### A \$1,000 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- An AED defibrillator
- An engine magneto for aircraft ignition system

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# A Man of Prayer

**I**t was dark when our family first arrived at the airbase in La Tronquera, Nicaragua after a four and a half hour long drive over winding, rough, roads. We were so happy to see a light on and our night watchman, Don Perez, waiting for us. He had a big smile on his face and told us that he was delighted that we had finally arrived in Tronquera. For over three years Don Perez has been faithfully fulfilling his duties even during the many long months when all the previous missionaries had left.

One thing that caught our attention was to see that each night after doing his security checks around the airbase and making sure that all the gates were closed he would sit to read his Bible for several hours. He would diligently study portions of the Bible using his flashlight, stopping from time to time to check the grounds if a dog barked or if he heard a strange noise. After ensuring that all was well, he

would carry on reading his Bible. We couldn't help but notice that his Bible was quite worn and much of it was underlined.

One morning, around 5 a.m., I awoke to hear someone talking quietly on our porch. I came close to the window wondering who it could be and I soon

realized it was Don Perez praying out loud. I couldn't help but hear him mention our names and request a special blessing for our family and *Adventist World Aviation* in Nicaragua and around the world. I was very moved to hear him pray for us in such a way and I was filled with emotion as I heard him talk to God on our behalf.

We have learned that Don Perez is a humble Christian man who is not highly educated, yet he has a lot of wisdom and often gives us advice on various challenges we face here in Nicaragua. We appreciate his counsel as we know he is a man of



Don Perez reading the Bible by flashlight.



## NICARAGUA REPORT



His favorite verses are John 5:39 and Joshua 1:8.

prayer and very honest. Two of his favorite Bible verses are Joshua 1:8 and John 5:39. He explains that the reason he loves these Bible verses is because they are a constant reminder that we should meditate on the Law of God day and night and be diligent to search the Scriptures daily because they testify of Jesus. Even though we are here to be an example to the people, Don Perez has been a constant example to us of how a Christian should live. It is wonderful to see the commitment he has to live his Christianity in a practical way. Sometimes we have had trouble finding honest people that can help us with the various jobs that need to be done, but he is a real testimony to the difference Christ makes in one's life.

He once told us that here in our village most people own a Bible that has been given to them, but that hardly anyone reads it. How sad it is to hear that. How different things would be if people would just read their Bibles. Right away I thought about ourselves and the people of North America. Many of us have not just one Bible, but often two or three available to us, not to mention our smart phone apps. More often than not, our Bibles sit on the shelf collecting dust while we seem to have plenty of time for television and the internet. We neglect to read God's letter of love to us and instead live frantic lives wondering why we feel so empty and don't know how to encourage others when they come to us with the serious problems that life on

this earth brings. We wear a frown instead of being a happy ray of sunshine. What would it be like if we all spent more time reading our Bibles and giving the time to God that He desires to spend with us?

Every Christian has been called to be a missionary for Christ. You are a missionary for Christ! You may not live in some remote country, but you have an influence on others either for or against Christ. We can all learn from one of Don Perez's favorite texts:

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

Let's commit to spend more time with God in His word and in prayer. People will notice that we have been sitting at the feet of Jesus learning from Him, and we will be able to share words of wisdom to whoever needs it and be a beacon of light wherever we are. May our prayer be: "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

The Hansen Family — Norman, Nancy, Steven and Melanie are now in Nicaragua.





# Mabaruma's Annual Christmas Sharing Event



Delivering food donations to local homes.

The “Annual Christmas Sharing” event was started by previous missionaries: the LaBores and the VanFossens, and is anticipated by the people of many villages around Mabaruma from year to year. The last year that 13 barrels of clothes, shoes, toys, school supplies and arts & crafts were donated was in 2015. We have stretched the distribution of the barrels to last for two years. Donations for the purchase of food hampers also began from previous missionary partners and even though the previous missionaries have since moved from Guyana we have faithful supporters who have continued the legacy. The ladies’ Sabbath School class from a church in Texas has made the commitment to set aside one quarter’s mission offering to help support the food hamper distribution again this year. Praise the Lord! He really does open the floodgates of heaven when one person is faithful. The Wilson First SDA Church in Wilson, NC, has joined in this endeavor also and as a result we will



Sorting donations.

continue the sharing of food hampers to the river communities during the month of January. We are so privileged to be the recipients of such generosity from God's people across the nation.

For this year's sharing event we asked two families from Hobo Hill, the community we live in and where the Wings Learning Center is located, to assist with sorting clothes, toys and shoes and putting together the food hampers. Sadly, this is the last barrel from the 2015 donation. Most of what is left behind to share are large sizes and winter clothing, which are not practical in the hot tropical climate. The same is true for the shoes we have left—only larger sizes remain. Our food hampers this year consisted of: 5 lbs flour, 5 lbs sugar, 1 lb of milk, 1 pk of chow mein, 1 pk of baking powder, 1 pt of garbanzo beans, 1 pt of split peas, 10 small bouillon, 1 pk seasoning, 1 pk curry, 1 bottle of

cooking oil, 1 tin of sardines and 1 copy of *My Little Friend* as well as 1 copy of a *Guide* magazine. Glow tracts would be a nice addition for adults who know how to read, but we have exhausted our supply of tracts.



Food donations.

After assembling the hampers, early the following morning Bruce and Monique visited Khan's Hill and along with 11-year-old Avil who is from that village, shared 13 food hampers and toys. Then, 13 and 15-year-old Mandy and Sharmellie, from Hobo Hill assisted in sharing with another 16 families in Hobo. Finally, 15-year-old Nelisa from Barabina helped distribute to 14 families in Barabina. After the young ladies were dropped home, Bruce and Monique had two more families to share food hampers with at

Thomas Hill and Kumaka. Thanks to partnerships with many of you, there was a total of 45 families



Monique delivering food donation.



Happy to have her food donation.

who had a wonderful addition to their Christmas meal courtesy of our charitable partners in the US. The clothes and shoes were also given to the leaders of Barabina and Hobo Hill to distribute to the needy in their communities. God is good, all the time!

The Annual Christmas Sharing is an affirmation of God's desire to provide for His people where He has touched the hearts of donors, messengers (Monique and Bruce) and recipients. This is not the previous missionaries' doing, nor is it Bruce and Monique's doing, nor is it the recipients' asking. It is God's guiding hand that plants the idea and guides workers to make this a reality. Thank you to all for heeding God's bidding — if one soul could be brought to Jesus, what unutterable joy could that bring us.

Souls such as Alex and Joel.

Alex was our truck driver as we delivered the hampers in Barabina. Alex is 20 years old and owns his own truck which is extremely rare in Region 1 for someone his age. Alex saved enough from his work at the mining camp to start a business for himself. He lives with his mother and has a solid work ethic — a rarity among young men in Region 1. Alex waited for us as we delivered food hampers, visited, sang songs and prayed for all 14 families in Barabina. This took all afternoon. Only God knows his heart, but Alex seemed to be touched by the generosity of our partners and Wings for Humanity in sharing the 30-pound food hampers with folks who live in secluded areas of Barabina. To reach some of them



Putting together food donations.



Sorting clothing donations.

we had to trek over hills and valleys to get to their homes. Towards the end, Monique asked Alex how much he would charge for the half day of work. He charged a minimum fee which was very generous, considering the time and distance he spent with us. In fact, it was about one fourth of what should have been charged! Monique was moved to ask him if we could pray for him and he eagerly accepted. May Alex listen to the Holy Spirit's calling and accept Christ as his personal Savior.

While delivering food hampers in Hobo Hill, Mandy and Sharmellie brought us to a home where the parents were away. Monique hesitated going, being unsure of whether to deliver the hamper to children, but instead, a young man came out to receive our "sharing." We've never met Joel before, but after he thanked us for the hamper, we asked if we could pray for him and he, too, eagerly said, "yes." We invited him to church and "Praise the Lord!" Joel came that Sabbath and returned the

next Sabbath as well. Toward the end of the second Sabbath, we learned that Joel is a 2nd year medical student on break for the Christmas holiday. This is a rarity in the poverty stricken village of Hobo Hill. Joel articulated that he was moved with the messages he heard and plans to start attending church when he returns to Georgetown.

Please join us as we pray for Alex and Joel. Through God's leading and with donors who follow God's direction, we are hopeful for these two young men and for the future of Guyana and for the future of God's people.

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





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# Cessna 182R Donated to AWA

**F**or AWA, this past December was filled with many generous year-end gifts. One gift in particular was a special blessing to receive.

Early in the month, we were contacted by Gerald and Susan Wade, from Yreka, California, with an offer to donate their 1984 Cessna 182R airplane. The Wade's had decided for personal reasons that it was a good time for them to find a new home for their plane and they contacted AWA via our website to inquire if AWA could use a plane like the N9579E.

The timing could not have been better for AWA. Earlier in the fall of 2017, Jud Wickwire, AWA Vice President of Operations, had just completed a trip to Uganda exploring options for AWA to provide aviation mission support in that country sometime in the future. One of the things that would be needed to pursue mission support in Uganda would be an appropriate plane.

As it turned out, the Cessna 182R donated by the Wade family is the perfect platform for the Uganda mission project. The plane is currently due for a required overhaul based on time on the engine, so the timing to complete modifications needed to operate in Uganda is also a fit with the project needs. "We would like to replace the engine with a diesel engine before deploying this plane," stated Wickwire. The diesel



Gerald Wade and Jud Wickwire with Cessna 182 plane donated to AWA in December.

engine technology uses Jet A fuel, not only is it more readily available, but it is also 1/4 the cost of 100LL Avgas.

Entering a new country with a mission project is a slow and thoughtful process that is dependent upon appropriate funding, people and equipment. The Uganda Mission Project has moved one step forward with the acquisition of N9579E. It is truly a blessing that Gerald and Susan Wade made their airplane gift to AWA at this time.

Doreen Stocker is AWA's Development Director



# Employer Matching Gifts Can Increase Your Donation

**A**n often overlooked benefit that many employers offer to their employees are Employee Matching Gifts Programs for charitable contributions.

Employee Matching Gifts are donations an employer makes to match its employees' charitable contributions. Employee Matching Gifts Programs vary from business to business. Most are administered through the Human Resources Department. Many employers that offer these programs will match employee contributions dollar-for-dollar to eligible

nonprofits. Some companies will give double or even triple the original donation.

Donors who have Employee Matching Gifts Programs with their company simply fill out a Matching Gifts request with their company, listing their donation amount and the nonprofit organization they are supporting. If your company requires additional information from *Adventist World Aviation* to qualify for matching gifts, contact Doreen Stocker at 919-938-2920 or email [dd@flyawa.org](mailto:dd@flyawa.org).



## Western Adventist Foundation

Remember that AWA is available to help with your estate planning through a will or trust. AWA is partnered with *Western Adventist Foundation* (WAF), a nonprofit organization brought into existence to assist Adventist entities by expertly managing their trust service and planned giving programs. The WAF team is committed to the same values and goals on which AWA was founded 23 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.

To receive a free probate worksheet or for more information call Doreen Stocker, Development Director at 919-938-2920, or write us at 3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3, Smithfield, NC 27577.

## 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

**Raymond Etheridge**  
Bruce & Monique Wilkerson  
**Aelia Biggar & Ron Colcord**  
Albert Wiggins  
**Jerry V. Johnson**  
Carol Whiting-Johnson  
**Arlene Wiggins my CoPilot & Wife for over 50 Years**  
Albert Wiggins  
**Margo Swaningson**  
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### Dr. Ellwood Voorhees

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**Ric Yulo Claveria Passed Away 11/24/17**  
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