

Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION



Building Bridges

Photo by Mackenzie Smith

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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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Mackenzie Smithx

PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

Building Bridges for Eternity

A long time ago in a place not so far away, a farmer passed away. It was a sad day for his two sons. In his will he had left his sons his entire estate, which included the original farm and property across the road. (He had divided the property into two equal shares; one on one side of the street with the original farm house, and the other where his eldest

help with?" "Yes," replied the older son, "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm—that's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us, but he took his bulldozer and dug a creek between us. I'm going to do him one better. See that pile of old lumber? I want you to build an 8-foot-high fence between us so I can't see his farm or his face

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace.

son built his home.) The brothers were very close and were the best of friends. After 40 years of working together side by side, they fell into conflict one day. It began with a small misunderstanding, which grew to a major difference that finally exploded in an exchange of bitter words. Days, followed by weeks, then months, and finally, years of silence passed. They couldn't bear to cross paths with each other, in town or even by the mailbox, without conflict.

One morning, there was a knock on the older son's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there that I could

anymore!" The carpenter said, "Show me the nails and the tools, and I'll do a good job for you."

The older brother went to town for the day. When he returned at sunset, his eyes opened wide and his jaw dropped. There was no fence at all! Instead, the carpenter had built a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other... beautiful handrails and all! The older brother couldn't believe his eyes! Looking to the other side of the bridge, he saw a man crossing the bridge coming toward him. It was his younger brother! "Oh no!" he thought. But when he looked closer, he saw his younger brother approaching him with an outstretched hand. "You're quite the guy," he said, "after all I've

said and done, you do this.” The two brothers met in the middle, shook each other’s hand and embraced each other! Smiling, they wiped away the tears and looked up. They saw the carpenter leaving. They called, “Wait! Stay a few days. We have other projects for you.” “I’d love to,” the carpenter said, “but I have many more bridges to build.”

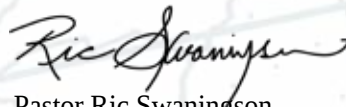
AWA is about building bridges in communities that are seemingly “unreachable.” We reach the “unreached.” We give hope to the hopeless, we try to restore faith to the faithless. We do our best to follow Jesus’ example. Jesus built bridges, not walls. Many people struggle, even at the mere mention of His name. However, if we can slow down the desire to “convince them of their error,” and find a path to build a bridge, hearts will soften to the kindness shown. AWA brings bridge-building to those who are struggling in this world.

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’ ” (Romans 10:14,15, NKJV).

AWA does its best to follow the example of Jesus.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1, NASB).



Pastor Ric Swaningson,
President/CEO



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The Flight Plan

How many of us have an ongoing to-do list? Of projects for the house and yard, bills to pay, laundry to fold...the list seems endless at times. But how good it feels to scratch one of those items off once it's completed! The pure satisfaction of marking off that to-do list after completing a project is almost as tangible as the project itself. We are so grateful that our donors and prayer warriors partner with AWA so that we're able to scratch an item off the project "to-do list." We wouldn't have been able to complete the bridge in Nicaragua, or get the hangar shipped to Guyana, or finish the Palawan Mission House, without *your* help!

A WARM WELCOME TO KYLE, REBECCA AND HADAHSA STEVENSON TO AWA!

Kyle was born in Springfield, Oregon, and knew exactly what he wanted to do when he grew up—to become a pilot and mechanic. He grew up in a family of drafters, construction workers, and carpenters, and as such, has a wide variety of experience in helping family members with projects. He graduated from Lane Community College in 2001 with an associate degree in Aviation Maintenance and started his flight training that same year. Due to unfortunate circumstances with his FAA medical at the time, Kyle was unable to finish his pilot training and decided to focus his efforts on his mechanic's license.



Kyle, Rebecca, and Hadahsa Stevenson

In April of 2002, Kyle got his first professional job in aviation, working as an A&P mechanic for Hillsboro Aviation. He has continued to work for them (now Hillsboro Aero Academy) for 15-plus years. Working for the flight school and charter departments has given him a vast amount of experience on many different types of aircraft over the years, including fixed wing piston aircraft, helicopters, and even building a Lockwood AirCam kit airplane. Currently Kyle is head of the Robinson Helicopter overhaul department and Quality Assurance director for a fleet of over 100 aircraft.

Kyle has now joined AWA, answering a call that has been presented to him time and time again to become a missionary mechanic/pilot and use the skills he's been blessed with in service to others.

Rebecca is a steward for her family's needs as a stay-at-home mom with her young daughter, Hadahsa, and



as a wife to her always tinkering husband, Kyle. While working to be a light for Christ in the home, she loves to write. She enjoys cooking and when opportunity allows, she sews. She also sings for the Lord in music ministry and has a love of creating art (a love shared by her daughter). But spending time in God's amazing creation, from the West Coast mountains to the Oregon coast line, is one of her favorite pastimes.

Corvallis, Oregon, was where Rebecca grew up, three miles outside of town in the country. Her family was Adventist but broken; she only had two grandparents, and a mother, but no father. She loved listening to Bible stories, the books of Revelation and Jonah being her favorites. She also wanted to serve God but wasn't quite ready to trust Him yet.

She had flown once as a kindergartner and was ecstatically hooked. However, it wouldn't be for another 28 years until she would fly again. The Lord called her to fly for Him in the late summer of 2015; He'd finally reached her heart. Then, in early September of 2017, she again saw His great creation from the sky.

Now, as Rebecca's relationship has and continues to grow leaps and bounds with the Lord, she is excited to see how her calling, shared by her husband, Kyle, will come to full realization as they go according to God's command and co-labor with Him to acquire support for the mission field and funds for flight training. By sharing a missionary message in word and song, ultimately, they can reach those in need of His love and salvation.

Read more about Kyle and Rebecca's family at <https://flyawa.org/portfolio/stevenson/>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23 to 29—AWA will be at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Fly-In & Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. With over 500,000 people attending, AWA hopes to share our amazing mission stories from around the globe. Please come out in support!

July 27 to August 4—AWA Canada will have a booth at BC (British Columbia) Camp Meeting once again and we hope to see you there!

August 1 to 4—Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) International Convention is taking place in Orlando, Florida, and AWA will be there. We are excited to reconnect with this community and look forward to the encouragement and the exchange of ideas. What a blessing!

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 résumé to Adventist World Aviation, 3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3, Smithfield, NC 27577, or by e-mail to info@flyawa.org.



A group of about 20 people, mostly young adults, are sitting on a newly constructed wooden bridge. They are smiling and waving at the camera. The bridge is made of light-colored wood and has a simple railing. It spans a deep ravine with a dirt path leading up to it. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage.

Hammering, Drilling, & Hauling

The surprisingly loud clanging of what sounded like a church bell but without the rhythm broke the cool stillness of the early morning. In my tent, on the floor, I rolled over to relieve the pressure

of my hip on the hard cement and looked at my watch. It was 5:15 on a Friday morning! The incessant racket continued for several more minutes from somewhere in the village before quiet was restored. This was something new; was it possibly a fire or some other emergency?

We later learned from Norman Hansen that there had been a call for a village meeting regarding the concerns of a few people in the village over the presence of the AWA airbase. The irony of it all was that this meeting call came just as our mission team was beginning the construction of a footbridge across a ravine between the airbase and the village.

Mission trips have so many important elements of preparation to lead to successful outcomes. We always want to ensure not only a rich cultural experience for the group, but we also want to be part of a meaningful, long-term impact at the local level. This bridge was to be something for the direct benefit of the community—a way for them to access this area for their own needs for hunting, fishing, and farming. With the addition of the well drilled last year, it has created even more foot traffic to access safe drinking water. Planning began over a year ago for this project when it was identified as a safety issue during the AWA Safety Audit conducted by Randy Ferguson. Soon after planning began, Okanagan Christian School in Kelowna, British Columbia, approached us about



Before the Kelowna mission group constructed a new footbridge, residents had to cross the ravine using a makeshift bridge of logs.



It took the efforts of nearly 20 people on the Nicaraguan mission team to maneuver the 1,500-pound beams that were used to construct a footbridge that enabled a local village to gain access for hunting, fishing, and farming.

alignment and when a string was stretched along them, both outside beams were within a half inch of being perfectly straight!

I always enjoy working with our youth on these trips. They display remarkable enthusiasm and resiliency in conditions well outside of their comfort zone. They all worked hard hammering, drilling, and hauling wood, moving dirt and mixing

cement in the intense heat. Following their arduous labor and after a good meal and a swim in the creek, they were ready to go, with even more enthusiasm for an afternoon

leading out with Vacation Bible School. Singing, playing games, telling Bible stories and teaching crafts with 30-40 children in the village filled the hours. A big “Thank you!” to the Kelowna Youth and their leaders for organizing this group. It was a pleasure to host them and we pray that their experience may play even a small part in their identity, faith, and journey in life.

These projects are about building relationships, forging friendships, and new engagement in a global view of the world we live in. Do you have a group looking for a place to go and make a difference? AWA has opportunities in a variety of locations for ministry, construction, medical, dental, and other community-related development. Call the office at **414-226-5195** or e-mail us at **info@flyawa.org**. We would love to hear from you!

hosting their biannual mission trip once again (they helped build the mission house in the Philippines in 2016). This bridge was the obvious choice.

One of the most rewarding elements of being part of this ministry is the constant revealing of God’s perfect timing through a series of events and opportunities that come together unexpectedly. This structure was not just to provide safe passage, it was also a symbolic bridge of goodwill between the community and the AWA airbase.

The Nicaragua mission team of the Hansens and the Lipkes (Courtney, Sabrea, Corson, and Denika) from Canada had been working hard for months assembling all the supplies and materials so the arriving team could get right to work. I was taken aback when I first saw the 32-foot long bridge beams laying in the tall grass; they looked like three enormous bananas! They appeared impossibly crooked and misshapen, however, after six of us pushed and rolled them into the best positions with the crowns up, they began to look more promising. Then it took almost 20 of us pushing, pulling, and prying to carefully maneuver the 1,500-pound timbers down the bank and across the ravine into the beam pockets of the concrete abutments. Even then the outside beams had a wild curve outward. We wrapped a winch cable around them to pull them into better

alignment and when a string was stretched along them, both outside beams were within a half inch of being perfectly straight!

I always enjoy working with our youth on these trips. They display remarkable enthusiasm and resiliency in conditions well outside of their comfort zone. They all worked hard hammering, drilling, and hauling wood, moving dirt and mixing

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





Divide and Conquer

Part 1

The scooter zipped along the dirt and gravel road. Von Espinosa, our pilot, artfully negotiated the ruts and steep hill we had to climb to our destination. The distance wasn't long, but the three of us were grateful to be able to use the scooter for a medical mission visit. It always amazes us how people here can fit an entire family, or two people plus a goat, or one person, with huge sacks of supplies tied up high behind him, on a scooter or motorcycle!

This Sabbath our team was “dividing and conquering.” Micah, Raylene, Edgar, and I went to the church in our village where we usually hold children’s Sabbath School. I am not in my element while teaching children, so I was grateful that the Espinosas and Micah were there. Micah often helps out with children’s Sabbath School, so he knew his way around.

The rest of our team, Danielle, Von, and Laura, were at another village where a group of college students gathered to do outreach in the area. They had a box of tangerines with them, which are imported from China, and are a rare treat here. Each tangerine costs about \$.50 when purchased in the market. Since \$6.00/day is the

average wage of someone from our village, paying \$.50 for one piece of fruit is impossible for most. We were able to find them wholesale, and the youth went out into the village, and offered them to everyone they saw smoking. They would make a deal with them to trade their cigarettes for a tangerine. Almost everyone said “yes!” We know this isn’t the way to convince someone to quit, but at least they may stop and think about their choices. The students would offer to pray with them, and that is how they will be able to stop if they choose to.

Our daughter, Danielle (who wants to be a nurse), and Laura “set up shop” to do blood pressure and blood sugar checks in the basketball court. Filipinos love basketball. In fact, most villages do whatever they can to be able to build a court. The village court also often doubles as a community center, and many meetings and programs are held there.

Throughout the day, we had a steady flow of people coming for blood pressure and blood sugar checks. One elderly gentleman who was in his 70s came to us, with hair and teeth that were yellow. This, and his thickened skin, told the story of his long-term smoking habit. He said he’d been smoking for 61 years! He was



Danielle LaBore, whose desire is to become a nurse, checks the blood sugar of patients at a medical clinic set up in the midst of a basketball court.

so impressed by the tangerine that he said he really wanted to try to stop smoking. The excitement in his eyes showed that he was serious. His pressure was high, and that furthered his desire to quit. We know, according to Mark 10:27, that ALL things are possible.

An elderly woman who had suffered a stroke last year paid us a visit. The doctors told her she'd never walk again. But she refused to believe that and exercised every day. It paid off, because she walked (a bit slowly) up a steep hill to visit us and get her pressure checked! We were thrilled by her visit and determination to come to see us.

Von Espinosa was busy translating for both Danielle and me when someone came up and told him of a man who needed his pressure and sugar checked, but he was homebound. One of the youth, who had been going door-to-door, had spoken with his family and told them that she'd be back with the nurse. This is how the three of us found ourselves on a scooter, zipping over obstacles!

Once at his home, we parked the scooter on the side of the road and walked down and back up a steep ravine on a small dirt path. A small pig was tied to a tree at the bottom of the ravine. He let out cute little

“oinks” as we passed by. The man we visited was only 32 years old, but had so many health issues that he was unable to work, and unable to afford much healthcare. Laura shared information with him about natural remedies that might work for his condition. We sensed a small glimmer of hope as we said goodbye to him.

Back at the basketball court, we wrapped things up as the patients stopped coming. People were grateful that the youth had taken time out of their schedules to spend time with them. We were grateful for the opportunity to interact with them on a more personal level, and to be invited into their homes. We were happy that we could share a little of the love of Jesus with others on His holy day! We felt a sense of accomplishment with our plan to divide and conquer, but ultimately, we knew that everything was done for Him and through Him.

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





Divide and Conquer

Part 2

Our small team of two families does a lot to keep the services running every Sabbath. We are focusing a lot of effort on having a children's program regularly at our local church at Sagpangan. The children's attendance has gone from having only two children (rarely) to 8-10 (usually). We love the energy that the children bring, and love to see the look on their faces as they hear

Bible stories for the first time.

Every Sabbath we make a craft with them that involves a memory verse, which they take home to memorize during the week. We pray that these memory verses and texts will also reach their parents. The parents all belong to churches that either don't promote reading the Bible or are against reading anything that their church didn't print. Whenever someone donates *My Little Friend* and *Guide* magazines, we pass them out, and they eagerly take one each time. English is not their first language, but they want to learn, and like to read the stories.

The week before last, we were in a quandary, as Laura was asked to attend a different church so that she could take blood pressure and blood sugar measurements as part of a community outreach with the youth. She usually heads up the Children's Program in Sagpangan, and we didn't want that to lapse. After some rearranging, and people volunteering to step out of their comfort zones, we worked together so that we could "divide and conquer." Laura, a nurse, and Danielle, who wants to become a nurse, would do the health outreach with our son, Von, who is part of the college youth and would be invaluable as a translator for Danielle and Laura. Von was also very

Raylene Espinosa translates a Bible story into Tagalog.





Edgar Espinosa leads an eager group of children in singing an action song during Sabbath School.

involved with the church service at the other village.

When Sabbath came, Raylene and I hopped onto our scooter, while Bill and Micah rode a motorcycle to the church. Micah and Raylene, on the backs of the motorcycles, balanced all the Sabbath School and potluck supplies as best they could. Bill and I drove, dodging ruts, rocks, and puddles to safely make it to church. Sometimes the kids are so eager for Sabbath School that they backtrack almost a mile to come to our home and wait for the time to leave. We then all pile into the truck and ride back, past their bamboo homes to go to church. This Sabbath we were thankful that they didn't come early, because the truck was being used by the team going to the other village.

Raylene taught the Bible story and I led out in song service. We all helped out when it came to craft time. Laura had prepared a craft in advance for them to do, which included a memory verse in Tagalog. All but two of the children knew their memory verse from the week before. Each one who knew their memory verse received a pencil as a gift. School supplies are very much appreciated here, as sometimes they are hard for the families to afford. Without these donated supplies, the children's Sabbath Schools would not be possible. Thank you!

When we were done with Sabbath School, we

served a potluck of rice and beans and coconut bread with peanut butter and honey sandwiches. The children went home with full hearts and bellies.

Most often on Sundays, the children come to the mission base in the afternoon to participate in games or go to the beach. Building relationships is so important. The phrase, "They don't care what you know, until they know that you care" is so very true. Whenever Jesus entered a village, He always started out with healing people's bodies, hearts, and minds. He would teach them while He was helping them with their needs. We have found that this is the best way to reach people. It takes longer, but the seeds planted develop deep roots, and in turn, they reach others deeply too!

Sabbaths are never a "day of rest" for our team, but they are a day of "gladness"! When you see the children's little faces light up with excitement, or when they bring a new friend along, then you know you are in the middle of God's will, and there's no other place we'd rather be.

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



“Bite Size” Donations

Here 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 Engine Oil Analysis Kit

A \$50 GIFT CAN PROVIDE FOR:

- A tank of propane 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



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

If you would like to help with any of these **“Bite Size” needs** please donate today at <https://www.flyawa.org/donate/>





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Capitán, We Are in Your Hands!



A flat tire at a critical time of need presented a serious challenge. But God came to the rescue.

With my takeoff checks completed, I pushed the throttle forward to apply full power, but a strange shudder and sensation in the plane made me hesitate. Something was not right. Looking out the side window of my small mission plane I was surprised to see that the left tire was completely flat! How could this be happening to me?

As a new missionary pilot in a remote part of Nicaragua, I was unprepared for this situation. It didn't help that I had just picked up a young woman who was in labor with serious complications. Glancing again at the tire I knew there was no way I would be taking off any time soon. Turning to the doctor accompanying the patient I explained the situation and apologized, telling her the patient would have to travel to Puerto Cabezas by ground. She calmly replied that the patient needed to be transported by air. Thinking she didn't understand my Spanish, I again explained that I would not be able to take them as the tire was flat and no spare was available. Once again she calmly responded that the patient would have to go by air as the trip by ambulance would take at least five hours or more and she and the baby could not wait that long. Then



With God's intervention, AWA missionaries provided emergency medical transportation for a young pregnant woman who was experiencing complications of labor.

adding a final comment, she said, “Capitán, we are in your hands!”

Realizing the seriousness of our situation, I knew there was only one thing to do... pray! Bowing our heads I prayed a short but earnest prayer asking for divine guidance and God's protection for the young mother and her baby. I also sent out a text message to our flight operations group, notifying them of my situation and location. Almost immediately, my wife, Nancy, responded suggesting that I contact a missionary family that lived nearby whom we had recently met. Even though it was only 7 a.m., Brent came right away in response to my plea for help. The young doctor also made several phone calls and soon a local mechanic showed up with his tool bag. Thankfully, the tire was repaired in one hour and we arrived safely in Puerto Cabezas before the baby did.

After reflecting on the day's happenings, I realized that if the tire had blown during takeoff or landing, the outcome could have been very different, resulting in serious damage to the airplane and possibly injury to

those traveling. The tire had failed at the best possible time. I also learned that Nancy had contacted her prayer partners and that during this emergency, prayers had been constantly ascending on our behalf. I knew that God's angels had been at work protecting our lives and mission plane.

We are so encouraged to know that we are not alone in our work to relieve the suffering of the Miskito people and that God's promise of protection is true.

“For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone”
(Psalm 91:11,12).

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





Cement finishing team carefully trowels the final section of the hangar floor.

Carried by You

The wonderful story of a paralytic man who was forgiven and healed by Jesus is told in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12. Please allow us to

concentrate for a moment on the four men who carried the paralytic man to Jesus. When these friends or family members of the paralytic man could not come

near Jesus because of the crowd and physical obstacles, they uncovered the roof and broke through so they could let down the bed on which the paralytic man was lying in order for Jesus to heal him. Thank you, family and friends, who also carry us through our journey of overseas mission work. You have come through for us, proving that God blesses no matter how unworthy we are, as long as we press forward and run the race. We are crippled without your faith and support. The following are just a few of the amazing examples of how you have come through and provided for our individual as well as project needs over the past few years:

- Multiple people answered the



Materials donated by AWA supporters help to bring smiles to children who are reached through the ministries of VBS and Sabbath School.



Workers lay concrete for the construction of an airplane hangar.

call for matching a donation toward the erection of a 100'x40' airplane hangar.

- Churches in New Mexico and Arizona donated Sabbath School and VBS materials.
- A couple in Iowa donated toward our Mabaruma General Fund, the purchase of a kitchen cabinet, bathroom cabinet, couch and washing machine, and a starter and alternator for the John Deere tractor in the river community of Hotoquai.
- A church in Michigan, a couple in Michigan, and a couple in Washington State donated toward the Lifestyle Learning Center (LLC).
- A dentist in California donated 53 chairs and a couple in California donated a solar inverter and controller for the LLC.
- Multiple people donated toward the purchase of a 2017 Yamaha 115hp outboard motor for our team boat.
- A couple in New Mexico donated toward the education of one of our Amerindian secondary students, the purchase of a new motorcycle, books for early readers and calculators for our secondary students.
- A couple in New Mexico donated many needed personal and project items, such as *The Adventist Home*, beach ball globes, Norwex towels, and a Berkey water filtering system.
- Two churches are now involved with our yearly food hamper distribution.
- A primary school in Michigan donated two barrels

of school supplies for the Village of Baramita's primary school.

- An anonymous donor provided funds to help us grow organic fruit trees.
 - A team and church in Wisconsin completed the wharf in the river community of Blackwater.
 - Friends and family members sent sandals, artwork, and miscellaneous comfort food items, such as honey, spices, peanut butter, grape jelly, chocolates, and more.
- Without your prayers and financial support, we are unable to do the work we do; your generosity enables us to remain as missionaries in Guyana. Some of you we haven't met. Some of you, we've only met once. Some of you, are our family and old friends. We would like to thank all of you with a sincere heart for heeding to the inner call to partner with us and with all the missionaries who serve Adventist World Aviation. Please know you are always in our thoughts and prayers. If you would like to know how you can help provide for the needs at any of AWA's mission projects, please contact the AWA office at 919-938-2920.

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





Touching Lives Through Mission Aviation

Mission aviation plays a small part in the overall work of spreading the Good News, but that part is critical. There are many remote places around the world where the gospel would advance very little without the help of airplanes, their pilots, and the ever-essential ground support.

Being part of the ground support team provides me with the opportunity to serve as a homeland missionary in service to AWA. My family and I are based at Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA) in Scottsdale, Arizona, where I serve as an airframe and power plant

mechanic and webmaster for the AWA website.

Not only do I maintain the aircraft that is flown at the flight training program at Thunderbird Adventist Academy, but I am also called upon to travel to our AWA airbase locations to evaluate and repair aircraft in the field. When I am traveling, I am often reminded of a statement made by a seasoned missionary from Alaska who revealed to me that he most enjoys sharing the gospel with others while working “under the cowl” of a plane. That is my desire as well.

I look to my role at AWA as an opportunity to share the good news of our Savior, Jesus Christ, simply while working and doing my job— ensuring that our planes are airworthy.

Our flight school at Thunderbird Adventist Academy has its missionary challenges, even though we are located in the heart of a thriving, metropolitan city. We are working on building a dedicated Aviation Education Center on the TAA campus. Blueprints have been drafted and we are in negotiations to determine a suitable piece of ground on which to build. The project includes an airplane hangar for the AWA planes and an attached education center with offices for the flight school staff and mechanics.

The opportunity that lies before us to complete the Aviation Education Center building was set in place several years ago by Dr. Mel Phillips, who made a significant initial donation to kick off the project. Dr. Phillips was a strong supporter of the aviation



Students work on an aviation drawing project.



A TAA student does an oil check during preflight.



Airplane maintenance at TAA is done in a parking lot with a pop-up tent for shade, creating a true “mission field” experience.

education program at TAA and he saw the need for a dedicated building to improve the program and provide additional opportunities for the students.

Currently we tether our planes outside in a parking lot behind the campus wall. All maintenance is done outside in the parking lot with a pop-up tent for shade. That is truly “mission field” conditions!

AWA has a unique relationship with Thunderbird Adventist Academy in providing an aviation program to the high school students. An aviation education is a long-term commitment and we believe that offering students an early start is important to giving them a great advantage for their future in aviation. The mission of our small TAA team is to expose the students to aviation and a model of Christian professionalism. For some, we will also provide the necessary support and resources for them to succeed in obtaining their private pilot license.

With the addition of the Aviation Education Center, we will have the opportunity to include additional training and possibly include an aviation-based S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics) program for students interested in the mechanics of maintaining aircraft.

There is still much to be accomplished. It is my deepest desire and daily prayer that our TAA team and all the other AWA projects scattered around the world will succeed in the work that God has given to us. Through mission aviation we are able to reach so many and share Jesus’ love with them. We hear wonderful stories about a life that was saved or positively changed as a result of a medevac flight or through the work of missionaries in the field. Even though we are in the center of a large city, our team at TAA is also touching lives and making a difference for the students and their families that we serve.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Luke 10:2).


Nik Nagy is responsible for aviation maintenance at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.




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Leaving a Legacy Gift

A legacy gift is a planned future donation to a charity, given through a will or other form of designation. Everyone has heard about estate planning, but a legacy gift takes the concept one step further, allowing you to incorporate your morals, beliefs and ideals into your estate plan. A legacy gift allows you to make a difference through the gifts you leave to your family and charities that are important to you.

The primary goal of an estate plan is to map out the distribution of estate assets upon the death of the individual making the plan. Most estate plans include provisions for incapacity and medical needs, tax and probate avoidance and retirement needs. A basic estate plan has the ability to protect and grow assets during your lifetime as well to ensure that those assets are available to provide for loved ones after your death.

Legacy planning takes into account the guiding principles upon which you have lived your life. These are the principles that are interwoven into every aspect of your life and you likely have shared these principles with others close to you. Within your principles, you have a number of personal ideals, morals, beliefs and philosophies that are important

to you. By focusing on creating a legacy plan instead of a basic estate plan you have limitless options on how to incorporate your guiding principles into how your gifts are distributed. Selecting charitable organizations, with shared principles, is a large part of creating a legacy plan.

There are many options when making a charitable gift. Direct gifts are one-time gifts to a charitable organization to be used as the organization sees fit. Charitable trusts can be established to allow you to have more control over how your assets are used. The trust terms you create dictate how, when and for what purpose the assets held by the trust can be used and spells out the terms in the trust for distribution. The goal in legacy planning is to develop a plan that will allow you to continue to support the charities that are important to you and to ensure that the principles that you lived by are shared for generations to come.

To learn more about legacy gift options and estate planning, contact Doreen Stocker, AWA development director at dd@flyawa.org or call 919-938-2920.

Doreen Stocker is AWA's development director.



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You Can Be an AWA Ambassador!

At Adventist World Aviation, we reach out to many people living in remote locations. The stories told of our mission work varies from day-to-day tasks to life-saving medical evacuations, and everything between. Our goal is to share our stories with as many people as possible and build a network of supporters to help us continue this good work.

This is where our AWA ambassadors can help. They serve as a local AWA spokesperson in their community. Our ambassadors consist of people of all walks of life and with a variety of skill sets in large and small communities. They help share our AWA message through a variety of methods, in a manner that is comfortable to them.

To be an AWA ambassador you simply need to enjoy talking to people and sharing stories. The main purpose is to help educate others about the mission work that AWA does. We provide our ambassadors with talking points on our current AWA projects, copies of *Airways* magazines and project fundraiser brochures, and access to AWA YouTube videos to share.

Ambassadors will routinely share information at their home church and with other local churches and community organizations. They volunteer to speak to Pathfinder groups about AWA projects. They

attend community events where they can share AWA information. The schedule is driven by each ambassador, and support is offered from AWA headquarters to provide the collateral material that may be needed.

Our ambassadors are encouraged to be creative and look for fun ways to share our AWA message. We have had ambassador volunteers organize third-party fundraisers to support AWA. One of our ambassadors even used her singing talents, scheduling concerts in local churches, to help raise awareness and funds for AWA. Other ambassadors have shared stories on social media and have posted online fundraising challenges to build support.

If you have an interest in becoming one of our AWA ambassadors, please e-mail your name, address and phone number to dd@flyawa.org. You will be added to the ambassador roster and receive regular communications from our office with suggestions on how you can share our AWA message. You will be provided with talking points on projects and links to new AWA videos.

If you would like more information or to discuss ambassador opportunities, call 919-938-2920.

Doreen Stocker is AWA's development director.



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Calling All AWA Quilters

While chatting with staff in the AWA headquarters one day, the idea of making an AWA airplane wall hanging quilt came under consideration. As the new development director, I noticed we had a bare wall that could use some decorating and as an avid quilter, my mind naturally went into quilt mode.

After discussing the idea for several days and sharing the thought with a couple of our AWA supporters who are also quilters, we decided to put out a request to our AWA family to see if anyone would like to participate in the project.

The quilt will be an appliqué of our Pathfinder plane on a background of light blue and white quilt blocks.

We are asking anyone who wants to participate to make a block for the quilt background. Because we want to have a sky-like feel for the background, we are asking that you use light blue and white 100 percent cotton fabric. Any fabric in light blue and white is acceptable; you do not need to restrict yourself to solid colors. The idea is to have a collection of blocks that when put all together, will give us the impression of sky and clouds.

Blocks will be accepted in a variety of sizes. Unfinished 4.5, 6.5, 8.5 or 12.5 pieced blocks will be arranged in a mosaic to create the background. Simple pieced blocks are needed for the background,



AWA is inviting supporters and friends to submit light blue and white quilt blocks for an airplane wall hanging quilt to be displayed at the AWA headquarters.

without any embellishments or appliqué. We are not restricting the quilt pattern that you can use. The outcome will be much more creative if everyone sends in a block that they feel reflects the sky and clouds.

Lastly, we would like you to sign your block with your name and hometown or if you would like, you can send in a block in memory of a loved one. (Thank you, Cathy Vickers for this lovely idea.) Make sure you use a pigma fabric pen to sign the blocks to ensure that the names do not run or bleed.

Blocks are requested by June 30, 2018 to be included in this project.

Please mail your blocks to: AWA Quilt Project, 3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3, Smithfield, NC 27577.

Thank you in advance to all of our AWA family for supporting our mission work over the years. We hope this little project will be fun for you to participate in and provide you with an opportunity to have a small piece of your time and talent hanging in our AWA office for all to enjoy.

Doreen Stocker is AWA's development director.



Coming in the Next Edition ... Baptisms in the Philippines



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

Arlene L. Wiggins
(wife of 50+ years)

Albert Wiggins

Isabel Cardona & Rachel Lobo

Elizabeth L. Gonzales

Delton Baldwin

Leo & Cecelia St. Clair

Milton King

Louis & Evelyn Meyer

Ann Frances Tolis

Helena W. Tolis

Ezrad Vic Hehn

Estella Hehn

Zig Ziglar My First Flight
Instructor

Albert Wiggins

Elmer, Delmer, Jack, and Ruth

Albert Wiggins

Marcia S. Cooper

Joseph Cooper

Bob Lawry

Louis & Evelyn Meyer

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Manuel Sanchez

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