

Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

Called to Serve



INSIDE: THE CALL TO SERVICE, P.6; HEEDING THE CALL, P.16

Choosing to Serve

By Ric Swaningson, AWA President

Many are called, but few are chosen." Have you ever wondered what that statement really means? Are you like most folks who assume that only a few are privileged enough to be chosen? In my experience, I have discovered that choice is not a privilege, but rather, a right of freedom. Since the beginning of time, at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, both Adam and Eve had a choice. I can just imagine them asking, "Do we eat this avocado or not?" OK, so maybe it wasn't an avocado, but you get the point! God had better plans for them, but in the end, it was their choice. And God doesn't operate without giving us choices. And when it comes to service, He doesn't usually lay before us only one good path. He almost always allows us to decide which path we will choose. There are only a few occasions on which God offered someone little choice, such as the time when He said to one of His followers; "Go to Ninevah, or I will send a fish to take you there..." (Well, that wasn't exactly how it happened, but you know the story.)

This point was driven home to me many years ago. I was entertaining multiple calls to serve in various places. "Okay, this is daunting," I said. So I narrowed the options down to three. Yet, it was still daunting! So I hit the reset button and went back to the multiple options. I thought I was leaving them open for God. What I didn't realize, however, is that God had given me these multiple choices. **How do I know God's will?** I wondered.

I never had so many options before! So I prayed, "God, what is Your will?" For the next several days, each call was pulling my interest in their direction. They would ask me, "Are you ready to come and work for us?" The fact was, I was interested in

all of them! I was having such a hard time and the only response from God seemed to be the ever-so-quieting noise of crickets chirping... God??? Are You there?

I asked. Chirp, chirp, went the crickets. **Why doesn't God answer me?** I wondered.

My next strategy was to put a fleece out before God—a test. That's biblical, right? Well, that didn't end well! In the end that test failed miserably. So I tried another test. But I got only the same results; the same crickets continued to chirp. Then the thought came that perhaps I am to stay where I am. I sat in my office, with my elbows on my desk and my head in my hands, depressed. I prayed, "God, if You want me to stay, I will." During that time, I was participating on a committee to hire someone to fill an executive position in our conference. We all asked him if he felt called. His reply caught my attention. The words were so profound, and those words still ring true today! Here is what he said: "I am not sure yet if I will serve here or there or somewhere else." God has given me several options, all of which are very interesting to me and my wife." Then I asked, "How do you choose, then?" (I had a hidden agenda!) He said, "Not many years ago, when I was at a point in the road where two or more paths were laid out before me, it was as if God was speaking to me." God said, "The earth is My vineyard. Pick a row (path!) and I will bless you!" Wow! At that point everything came into sharp focus for me. Then he said, "Many (all) are called, but few will choose to follow."

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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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COVER PHOTO

Serving the Lord as an AWA missionary is a life of joy, adventure, sacrifice, challenges, and rewards. AWA missionaries save lives by providing emergency medical transportation for people in remote areas of the earth.

The Foxhole Syndrome

On the flip side, there is an old saying that goes something like this: There are no atheists in foxholes; and there are no atheists in cancer wards, either. When life hits us hard, we say things like, “Lord, if You will just get me out of this mess, then I will serve You! In fact, I am going to start now!” During such times of trouble I cannot tell you how many “missionaries in the making” we have received. All of them are sincere in their desire to serve. I believe they mean it. However, when they are at the bottom of the curve, they say, “I am committed to serve!” They tell me such things as, “God hit me over the head, and He hit me hard! I am ready to serve.” I listen to their tragic stories and feel so sorry for them. Then I say to them, “I understand why you would want to turn your life over to God.”

I have to be honest with you. In some cases, I listened too much to them and have moved too hastily to hire them, believing they were answering a true calling. However, I have noticed almost every time, without exception, that as soon as their personal life storm is over, as soon as life gets back to “normal” for them, inevitably I hear these words: “I believe God is calling me back to what I was doing” or “It turns out God has other plans for me,” or even, “This mission is not what I thought it was.” I see it all the time. We are in the mission work to help the helpless. So it is hard for us to question someone’s desire or what motivates them.

But after many years, I have found this truth to be self-evident: When those who answer the chosen call zero in on their desired mission with

laser-accurate focus and become like a horse with blinders, they neither look to the left or right! They have made their choice! They are committed. They will serve God. This is their chosen “path.” They make a commitment and they do it to perfection, because it was their choice. They made the choice—not out of times of trouble, not because of a wondering sense of the need to commit to something, so they randomly looked for it, but they made the choice in the midst of times of peace and joy. The successful missionary is the one who makes the decision with great specificity! Missionaries do what they do to serve, not because life is going badly, but rather, because life is at its best! They are at the top of their game. They felt the calling and they chose to serve! They are the best of the best! God’s pearls—these are the workers of AWA! These are the adventurers of Adventist World Aviation. Its ongoing mission is to “Go Into All the World” (the final frontier), to reach out and save the lives of the lost or the suffering, to seek out primitive civilizations, to help those in need, to reach the unreachable—in essence, to boldly go where no missionary has gone before!



Pastor Ric Swaningson,
President/CEO



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AWA Is On the Move!

The Flight Plan

AWA would like to say a huge “Thank You!” to all our donors, prayer partners, volunteers, and team members for their ongoing efforts. As always, Adventist World Aviation wants to help reach the hard-to-reach of this world and spread the love of Jesus. You make AWA possible!

Welcome to Our New Team Members!



**Peter Trzinski, AWA
Ministerial and
Evangelism Director**

Peter and Sandra Trzinski started their life ministry shortly after Peter was baptized and Sandra joined him in the watery grave. Sandra had grown up in the Seventh-day

Adventist faith, attended our schools and academies, and eventually, Hinsdale College, where she earned her nursing degree.

Jesus said in John 20:21: “As the Father has sent Me, so am I sending you.” This became the couple’s belief—that God was sending them to proclaim the Good News to every nation, tribe, and people, as He opened doors for them.

They ministered in their local church and felt God was calling them to full-time ministry for Him. Taking a leave of absence from their civil engineering

careers building roads and bridges for the State of Wisconsin, they entered full-time pastoral work, pastoring the Native American tribe of people known as the Yakima in Washington State. It quickly became apparent that they were to leave civil engineering and become full-time ministers of the gospel. The All Nations Center was built, and the ministry was launched. It grew as a result of sharing the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. During this time, Peter and Sandra were ordained to the gospel ministry by the Upper Columbia Conference.

After pastoring a three-church district they again were called to minister to a different people group, and following Acts 1:8, which says, “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world,” they took a call to the Gulf States Conference as the pastoral couple of the Panama City, Florida, church. Later, Peter and Sandra received a call to the Gulf States Conference, where he served as the ministerial and evangelism director, and their new area of the world included the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and the panhandle of Florida.

Having ministered to many different people, in different parts of the United States, the Trzinskis still have at the top of their prayer list their five children who have blessed them with eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

AWA is so grateful to have Pastor Peter and his wife, Sandra, join our team! Please pray for them as they settle in North Carolina and continue to dedicate their lives to the Lord.



Pat Humphrey,
Airways editor

Pat Humphrey is no stranger to AWA, having served as editor of Airways from its early days of publication until her retirement from the Southwestern Union Conference in 2016,

where she served as director of the Communication and Health Ministries departments. Over the past 30 years, Pat has written hundreds of articles for numerous Adventist publications and also served as editor of several church publications, including the *Southwestern Union Record*. She also authored a junior devotional book entitled *Helping Hands and Healing Hearts* and is co-author of two other books: *We Are the Pathfinders Strong* and *Don't Sweat It: Just Ask Art and Pat*.

Now semi-retired and living in Oklahoma, Pat, along with her husband, Art, is an active member of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (better known as ASI), a lay organization whose motto is "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." Together, Art and Pat own and operate Heart Paths Distributors, LLC, a commercial kitchen in Antlers, Oklahoma, that manufactures delectable, healthy carob treats (a tasty and wholesome chocolate alternative). Pat has a passion for health ministries, is pursuing a Master of Public Health degree, is actively involved in health outreach in her local church and community, serves on the North American Division Health Ministries Committee, and helps to coordinate various ASI Southwest-sponsored health ministry outreach activities and free medical clinics. Most of all, Pat loves the Lord and enjoys touching people's lives, and her primary desire in life is to serve Him in whatever capacity the Lord calls her to fulfill. She is excited to, once again, be a part of the AWA team, helping to share the wonderful stories of how God is working through AWA missionaries to reach the unreached through the gospel and medical ministry.

Upcoming Events

AWA FALL OPEN HOUSE

AWA is hosting a Fall Open House on October 5th at our headquarters in Smithfield, North Carolina. Check the AWA website and FB page for more information.

EASTERN CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

We'll also be at the Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting in Greenville, North Carolina, on October 27th and we are excited to connect with those attending!

WE'LL ALSO BE AT GYC

GYC (Generation. Youth. Christ) is holding its annual conference in Houston, Texas, from December 28 to January 1, and AWA will be there! This year GYC's fitting theme is "To the End." We're looking forward to supporting our youth and young adults and swapping stories.



MISSIONARY

The Call to Service How to know that a call is from God

By Peter Trzinski

Often when a person is considering where God may be calling them, they begin to seek out a sign, a fleece, if you will, to see what God's specific plan for them is, especially when it comes to service as a missionary.

I couldn't find the word "missionary" in the Bible and I looked through every one that I owned. However, I did find the word mission, which, in itself, implies being a missionary.

The Concise Oxford English Dictionary describes mission as a noun, an important assignment, typically involving travel abroad. Missionary, by default, means a person or a group sent on a mission.

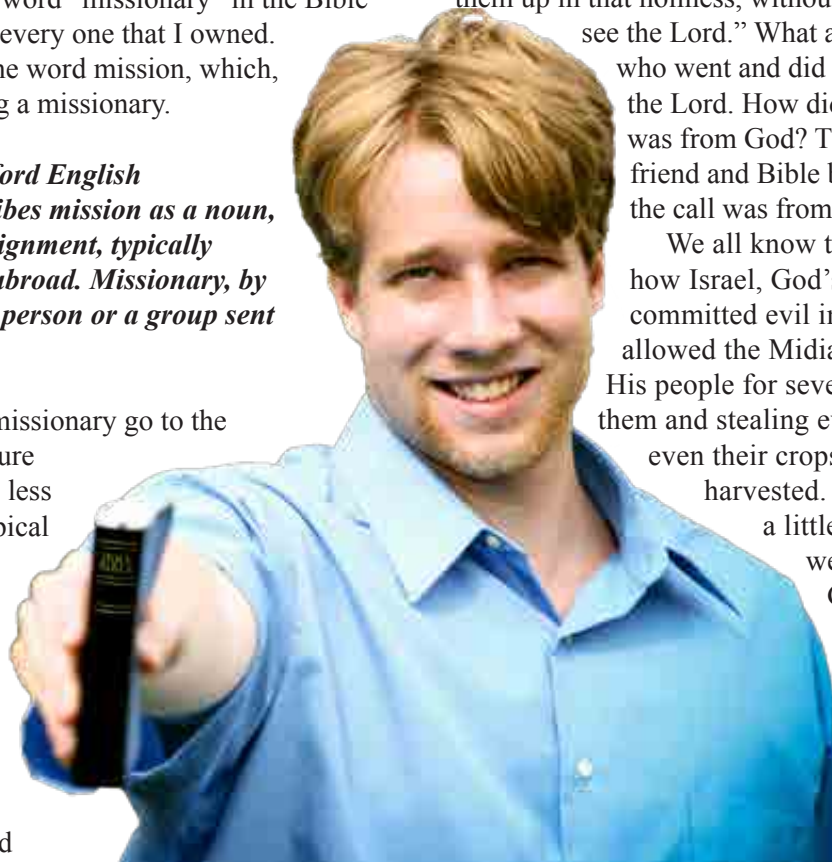
So, why would a missionary go to the mission field and endure conditions oftentimes less appealing than the typical American life? John Wesley of Protestant fame writes, "You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore, spend and be spent in this work. And go always, not only to those that need

you, but to those that need you most. Observe: It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness, without which they cannot see the Lord." What a man of God! One who went and did wonderful things for the Lord. How did he know the call was from God? The same way our good friend and Bible brother, Gideon, knew the call was from God.

We all know the story about how Israel, God's chosen people, committed evil in His sight, so God allowed the Midianites to lord over His people for seven years, humiliating them and stealing everything they had, even their crops as they were being harvested. Let's look at the story a little closer and see if

we can discover how Gideon recognized his call as a missionary to his own people.

First, Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.



An angel of the Lord appears to him and calls him a “mighty man of valor,” and says the Lord is with him. Wait a minute, Gideon is hiding in the winepress to avoid a confrontation with the Midianites. What is going on here? All of us have to understand that God operates with a whole different set of values and has the ability to look into our hearts and extend a call. Gideon queries the angel and basically asks “Why”? Why is this happening to us as your people? God simply states in verse 14, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” God is saying, “If I send you, you cannot fail, no matter your might, or lack thereof, for basically, I see you hiding from the Midianites, but I will be with you and I will not fail.”

Often we recognize the fleeces that Gideon places to see if the Lord is leading, but he had asked for a “sign” earlier and God provided one (see Judges 6:20, 21, ESV). And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

Fire from a rock! If I were Gideon, I wouldn’t have needed the fleece. God allows fire to come out of the Rock to consume the sacrifice, showing His pleasure in the sacrifice. So God answered Gideon’s request for a sign twice more with the fleece before he went and did what the Lord wanted of him. We can take heart in that. God does not abandon us when He is determined to use us. We all know that Gideon’s forces were so outmanned by the Gideonites that I wondered, the first time I read the Bible, if God really knew what He was doing. I can safely say, after many

decades of reading the Word, that God definitely knows what He is doing.

So, in order to “test” the Lord in His call to us, do we place fleeces out for Him to show us His way? I would answer that question with an emphatic “No!” (see 1 Peter 2:9, 10, NKJV). But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a

holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

If we are God’s people and serve Him as a royal priesthood, we are all missionaries

wherever we are. Some are called to leave their home country and serve, and some may serve right in the same neighborhood where they grew up, but we all serve as God’s own special people, lifting up Jesus Christ, Who will draw all men to Himself, no matter who or where we are. By default, you are already a missionary, simply because you are Christ’s!



Peter Trzinski, pictured with his wife, Saundra, is AWA’s evangelism and ministerial director.





BAPTISM IN THE

By Laura LaBore

Small swells formed on the clear, blue ocean, forming into waves that splashed up on the shore. Bare feet stood in the sand as their owners sang hymns while the few who had guitars accompanied them. Forty-three men, women and children lined up, most dressed in blue robes, waded out past the swells, to where four pastors waited. Smiles were everywhere.

Today was Sabbath, and today was the grand finale of many, many months of work by teams who had never met. Several months before, on the island of Palawan, in San Vicente, a 4-hour drive north from the AWA airbase, local church members fanned out into their communities and beyond, to reach people with the Good News of Jesus.

The second team, the missionaries, were busy with getting things ready for the children's programs, coordinating places to stay, finding people to help

with cooking, and juggling the different arrival dates of four pastors from the States, among other tasks. Bill and Edgar were very busy interfacing with the four different churches in San Vicente to make sure things went smoothly, and we also worked closely with the local conference.

Meanwhile, back in the States, four pastors, Peter Trzinski, David Graham, Joseph Story, and Stanley Hughes, were working out the details of their trip and organizing their sermons. The plan was to have each of them speak at a different church, simultaneously, but all presenting the same message each night.

Finally, the day arrived for all of the plans to be set into motion. Four translators, two cooks, two missionary families, our accountant, Christine Cayetano, and her roommate, Charymie, all converged in San Vicente, Palawan, to begin one week of evangelistic meetings. Our team gathered together



PHILIPPINES

before the meetings to have a Communion service. We wanted to draw closer, not only to each other, but also to God. He was the ultimate help for what we were about to do.

Before assigning the churches to the pastors, we had prayed that they would get paired up in the best way possible, and He didn't disappoint.

One of the churches, Irawan, was very small and a new start-up. Its three bamboo walls only went halfway up the rough corner posts, that met the tin roof on top. Pastor Joe Story had requested to take this location. The church may have been humble-looking, and few in persons, but the people were filled with interest. One woman eagerly took notes every night. There were more children than adults here and their enthusiastic voices filled the air each night with new songs they were learning.

Pastor Stanley spoke at the largest of the four churches. The members had worked hard at tilling the soil for souls, and a truck brought in 15-20 interested people every night from other villages. The concrete walls of the church were hot every night from the intense tropical sun it absorbed during the day, acting like an oven. The crowds of people made the heat even more intense, but no one complained. Pastor Stanley took it all in stride as sweat poured off his face every night. He had just come from a snow storm in Wisconsin and his body was not used to such heat!

Pastor Peter spoke at the Alimanguan church, that had been the first church in the area. They were on fire for God and were responsible for the church plant at Irawan, where Pastor Joe was speaking. Several of their youth traveled by motorcycle every night to Irawan to work with the children, while other youth stayed behind to teach the children who came there.



Pastor David spoke at the New Agutaya church. The people loved him and his gentle demeanor and he loved them back with words of truth! New Interests came from that area and regular members absorbed messages that they had heard before but hadn't fully grasped.

On Sabbath, all the churches gathered together at the Alimanguan church to worship. It is ideally situated on the beach, but unfortunately, the local government is forcing them to sell their amazing piece of land to make way for tourism. Soon tourists will be sunbathing on the beach, but on this day it was used for a more holy purpose. On this special occasion, it was being used for those who wanted to



publicly declare that they were surrendering their lives to Someone greater than themselves. On this day, the baptismal candidates symbolically had all their past sins covered in the waters and they came up to a new life in Jesus. Their smiles could not have been bigger as they came up out of the waters. At the end, they all stood in a line as the pastors prayed over them and returned to their new brothers and sisters waiting on the beach, singing hymns. We can't wait for the day when we will all be gathered in heaven, but this time, instead of standing on the sandy beach of the South China Sea, it will be the sea of glass in heaven on which we will all stand!



Laura LaBore and her husband, Bill, serve as South Asia Regional Director. Pictured with the LaBores are their two children, Danielle and Micah, who are mission pilots in training.

Minardo's Journey Back to God

Fifteen years ago Minardo attended evangelistic meetings presented by the church. He liked what he heard, and got excited in the moment, then decided to be baptized. It felt right. But after a while, the feeling wore off, and he started to backslide. (Only by falling in love with Jesus are we truly converted!)

Then one day Minardo was hit by a stroke, disabling one side of his body, and leaving him unable to walk. Although he had forgotten about God, God did not forget about him.

The church in his town of Alimanguan had a care group called “Maranatha,” headed by Nida. When Nida heard about what had happened to Minardo, she and others visited him. Twice a week they brought a physical therapist along with them, who would apply the therapy treatments after worshipping with him and his family.

One day Minardo was able to stand, with the help of his wife, but he still could not walk. The care group invited him to worship with them on Sabbath, but that would be difficult, since he could not walk. This was complicated by the fact that such items as wheelchairs are difficult to obtain, and handicap access areas are nearly unheard of in villages.

As they were worshipping one Sabbath, the church family was shocked and excited to see Minardo walking alone, using crutches and coming to church! The last time they had seen him he could barely stand.

That Sabbath was a new beginning for him. He also found out that the next day, on Sunday, AWA would start evangelistic meetings that would be held in his church. He could hardly wait to attend. Could God have healed him just

in time to attend these very important meetings?

Pastor Peter Trzniski had traveled from North Carolina, along with three other pastors from the States to hold meetings at four different sites. Minardo eagerly attended every meeting, and convicted by what he heard during the presentations, decided to recommit his life to God. He wanted to publicly declare his now-genuine love for God by becoming baptized. How awesome that Minardo was able to walk into the clear-blue ocean all on his own—with no crutches—for baptism!

Minardo is now an active church member, and asks that you join him in praying for his family. He prays that they will also fall in love with

God and be baptized, and that one day soon they can all worship together.



“Bite Size” Donations

A \$25 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

- Breakfast for 12 children
- School books for five students
- A hand held 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:

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

A \$100 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

- 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 three days of supplies for two people
- Spark plug
- Case of oil for an airplane





A \$150 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

- A two-wheeled yard cart wheelbarrow
- Motorcycle tire
- Folding backboard for medical transports
- Food baskets for five needy families

A \$200 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

- Aircraft tire
- Aviation fuel for one four-hour medevac flight

A \$300 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

- Fuel pump for single engine plane
- iPad for plane pilot

A \$500 gift can provide:

- A portable gas-powered generator
- Aircraft battery

A \$1,000 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:

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





We Are Adventist World Aviation

By Jenna Volkwyn

In this present-day world, I think a lot of us feel small. We feel that our lives are relatively insignificant, and that we don't have an impact on the outcome of the world around us. Recognizing our insignificance, we wonder, What is the point of trying, when it seems to yield nothing of importance? I know I've felt this way at times in my life, and maybe you have too.

That's how I felt when I got invited to help out at the Carolina Conference camp meeting this past May. A small-town girl from Canada getting to travel to North Carolina to be part of an organization that does so much good in this world—what a privilege it was to be included! So, in my small way, I was going to use the skills that God has graced me with to have some sort of minor impact in this event. And what turned out to be more than just an event to promote AWA became a place where real bonds were created, where friendships were made, and teams were built.

“To say that being part of something important is an understatement. I believe this is ultimately all we want, to be deeply connected and accepted by one another.”

First came perseverance. For weeks prior to and for the majority of the event, it rained. Not just a sprinkle, but downpours—unlike anything this Canadian girl has ever witnessed. Our tent was moved twice on the grass, then finally, we found dry refuge under the main auditorium's roof. Our team packed and repacked and waded through inches of muddy water several times to shift our focus to the solution rather than focusing on the problem—which is the missionary way.

Coming together like this, laughing through the rain, was such an unexpected blessing of team-building that we rarely get to experience. Adventist World Aviation is a unique ministry in that we all live and work so far from each other that we rarely get these opportunities. And to have 18 of us (plus kids) together at one location working toward a common goal is quite a rare experience, and the rain was our first obstacle to overcome.

Our second aim was to reach out and meet as many people as we could to share the stories of AWA's mission. This came in the form of being invited by the Carolina Conference to spend 10 minutes every night sharing our message and our mission on the main stage of the auditorium.

What a huge blessing to be accepted and included! We cannot thank the Carolina Conference enough for this, as we strive to work alongside the Adventist Church as a supporting ministry. Through this act of recognition, we got to share and connect with so many people who had never heard of us before, and to reconnect with some of our long-time supporters. We were able to hand out thousands of our *Airways* magazines and we met so many kind people who are interested in becoming part of the AWA network. We also met a lot of prayer warriors that week too! We were able to hand out hundreds of missionary family prayer cards—what a hit!

All in all, this event taught me a lot about the importance of acceptance and collaboration. AWA cannot do this alone; we are not meant to be isolated, but rather, connected in community. Having our headquarters move to North Carolina has brought that to us; it has helped create deep roots with the Carolina Conference, and we are so excited to keep building these relationships. And from my small set of hands, I get to be part of this journey, to be part of an organization that tries its best to do its best. Though it sometimes falters, ultimately, through the guidance of

the Holy Spirit, AWA has made a difference in thousands of lives and hopes to do so until every single individual has been reached for Jesus. This is where your small (or large) hands come in too. We need your help in lifting up this ministry through prayer. I ask that you please reach out to us at <http://www.flyawa.org> or through e-mail to info@flyawa.org and become a prayer warrior for a missionary family or project today.

To say that being part of something important is an understatement. I believe this is ultimately all we want, to be deeply connected and accepted by one another.

Thank you to the Carolina Conference and its members for showing us this acceptance.

Jenna Volkwyn is the administrative assistant for AWA Canada. She is also the mother to Milo, wife to Marc, and friend to many.



AWA Approved as Combined Federal Campaign Charity

The mission of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused. It is a cost-effective and efficient process that offers all U.S. military and federal employees the opportunity to make payroll deducted donations to the non-profit organization of their choice.

The CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. Charities must complete an application process to become eligible to participate each year. The campaign period runs from October 1-December 15 each year.

This year, Adventist World Aviation has been approved as an eligible CFC non-profit. This fall AWA supporters can designate AWA as the recipient of their donations by using the **CFC code # 96724**. If you or someone you know is a military or federal employee, you can use your payroll donations to support Adventist World Aviation mission work all year long. If you have any questions about how to donate using the CFC, please contact the AWA office at 414-226-5195.

A photograph of a man and a woman standing close together on a vast, flat, snow-covered landscape, likely a frozen lake or field. The man is wearing a dark jacket and brown pants, and the woman is wearing a white parka and dark boots. In the background, there are some evergreen trees and a distant shoreline under a pale sky.

Heeding the Call

By Ryan and Janet Kennedy

Janet and Ryan Kennedy standing on ice in Northern Ontario, where they are soon to deploy for service.

You are being called? And where are you going? That sounds a lot like a vacation to me! Many people have a hard time comprehending what being called to service means. A call is a strong conviction to break through barriers that are formed around ourselves and to venture into what we deem as beyond our power, despite what obstacles may be in our way. It will look and sound different to each person, but, in essence, the results are the same. It may involve giving up the attractive status of ever owning a new house, a new car, or having a large, stable salary. It will mean pouring your time and effort into the work you are tasked to do, with the possibility of never really seeing any outcome and looking forward, not to what the world sees, but to something far greater!

We are told to not lay up treasures upon this earth, but to lay up treasures in heaven, where rust cannot corrupt, and thieves cannot steal (see Matthew 6:20).

For Janet and me, the call came when we were student missionaries

on a small atoll in the Marshall Islands. Although we had no real connection or interest in each other at the time, when you work closely together for God's purposes and are focused on the same goals, you can leave the rest for Him to work out. It was during these two years on this island where Janet and I both cultivated a greater desire for the important areas in life. Spending quality time with the people around us in the simplicity of their daily duties, watching the smiles that emanated from the children who would find entertainment in using two flattened water bottles as skis as they pulled each other around the sidewalks, and choosing to step away from the distractions which keep us occupied and diverted from His plans, all aided in developing a stronger bond and desire to serve.

There is a sense of longing that awakens inside when you realize the depth and richness of the happy people who outwardly seem to have so little. This longing propelled the drive to do more, and to "go the extra mile" in every way we could. A new perspective was placed

upon us while our characters were changed by spending personal time with God and staying continuously busy, working to do everything in our power to improve the quality of life for those we were engaged with. The school in which we taught was like many other mission bases: wholly dependent upon volunteer teachers and staff to operate. In our case, this meant that without volunteers, the school with its 400-plus students would cease to operate. Being called to serve is more than a break from school, a change in pace from our daily lives, or a way to freshen the scenery. Service involves a full commitment to duty, knowing that God will work through us in ways we cannot begin to comprehend.

Accepting the call requires many sacrifices, which the devil will try to use to pull us away from God's greater purpose. When Janet and I realized that God had placed us together to serve Him, it meant sitting down and listing our priorities according to their level of importance. We realized very quickly that this dedication would, many times, be a test of



character. Once our commitment in the Marshall Islands was complete and we signed up to partner with AWA, we knew that the testing of our dedication would continue. We would not be able to see family in Mexico or across Canada as often, and we may not have the means to get settled in a place of our own and be surrounded by the comforts of this world. We would also have to go through an immigration process while not knowing what or where the next stage of our lives would be.

Two years later, Janet and I are on the final stretch of her immigration process from Mexico, and it has not come to this stage without many stressful moments, explanation letters to the government, and times where we questioned whether or not the process would be finalized. Due to the needed flexibility of moving where God leads, this sacrifice included the requirement that Janet remain in Canada until the immigration process has been approved. Even though there is an abundance of exploration opportunities inside Canada and plenty of incredible sights to see, there is no comparison to embracing your family and those you love, to meeting your niece for the first time, or watching your nephew act as a proud big brother, and being close by to offer support during major family crises. Although missing out

on these precious moments is an extremely tough sacrifice to make, it is also what drives us forward in our mission, despite the challenge, knowing that even though we may not be able to see our family often, we are thankful to even have loving family and friends—something many people know nothing about.

Our mission in Northern Ontario is based around that very need. To show the people living in depression and isolation that there are ones who care, who love them, and who want to show them a way out of the darkness, and show them the love of the Caregiver, Jesus. We will be able to reach them by airplane and provide consistent, reliable aid for those who need help. Janet and I both have a deep passion for improving the quality of life for others. We hold the following quote from Ellen White dear: “Very many, for the sake of acquiring scientific knowledge, will venture into pestilential regions and endure hardship, but where are those who are willing to do this for the sake of telling others of the Saviour?” (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 33).

Above all, this is what we hope to accomplish in Ontario, to show others Jesus through our actions in daily living, by our continued effort to make connections, and by being a friend and a light to those who have no hope.

The Sioux Lookout Project

Ryan and Janet Kennedy have heeded the call to reach the First Nations people of Sioux Lookout, Ontario. The primary focus of their work will be to provide support and improve the lives of the First Nations people living in the isolated Northern communities of Ontario. The extremely sad and brutal historical events involving the First Nations people has created a massive need, mainly for lifestyle improvement involving depression recovery and suicide prevention.

Emotional health among this people group is extremely poor. The isolation and sub-par living conditions, paired with substance abuse and violence, has created an immense need for long-term, consistent health intervention and lifestyle coaching amenities. Improving people’s dietary and exercise habits through wellness coaching and professional counseling are two of the most-needed areas.

Since many of the communities are accessible only by plane or ice road, it is paramount that the Kennedys develop strong connections and relationships so that they can, once trust is established, offer people a better way and quality of life. Says Ryan, “Our goal is to reach the unreachable, isolated people and get to the cause of their hurt and pain in a loving, caring way, just as Jesus did when He was on this earth.”



Disaster Turns to Miracle

By Darren and Joanne Lea

Our long-awaited hangar was being constructed. The walls were up, and we were almost through with our first full day of roofing. About a third of the sheets were in place, and it was good to see the progress. It was Friday afternoon, and we were wrapping up for the day. Not wanting to leave anything lying on the ground, we decided to stack the few remaining sheets on top of the new roof. I had just been up there myself with our two Guyanese helpers, Alex and Jerry. Alex climbed down onto the scaffolding to help midway, and Tom and I passed the sheets up from the bottom. I bent over to pick up the next piece, when suddenly I heard a yell. I turned my head in time to see Jerry, who'd been on the roof a moment before, come crashing down onto the concrete floor below. Oh, no! He'd just fallen from the highest side of the building! I rushed over to him. Embarrassed, Jerry tried to stand

up. "Just stay where you are, and try to relax!" I could see he had hit his head above his left eye, as well as his left knee.

I called a local doctor and told him what had just happened. He said the ambulance would be on its way, with a backboard. Turning to Jerry, I checked to see how lucid he was. "How old are you?" "17 years," he replied. "When were you born?" He gave me the information without difficulty. "My left eye has gone blurry," he told us. Rain started to fall, so we held up a tarp to keep Jerry dry as we waited for his ride to the hospital. It was then that we gathered around him for prayer. I tried to fight back my emotions as the shock of what had just happened started to sink in. "Lord," I pleaded, "be merciful to us, and especially to Jerry." After seeing Jerry fall onto solid concrete from a height of close to 15 feet, I shuddered to think what his injuries could be. A broken back or neck? A cracked skull? How many other bones



could be broken? We heard the familiar siren, and a little while later the ambulance appeared.

The doctor jumped out and started giving instructions. We got the backboard in position and carefully lifted Jerry onto it and into the vehicle. We knew Jerry's family from church, so I telephoned his mom to let her know. We picked her up in our vehicle and took her to the hospital. Doctors were buzzing around him when we arrived. They wanted us to wait outside the room. Praying all the while, we waited in suspense. Our minds raced back and forth, as we tried to be patient.

Finally we got some feedback: The ultrasound showed no fluid build-up in his abdomen. We waited for him to return from the x-ray room. Surprisingly, Jerry had no broken bones as far as they could tell! It was only on Sunday that Jerry could see enough out of his left eye to know that his vision was still blurred. The doctor gave the referral for Jerry to have further testing done in the capital. He was med-evac'd to Georgetown that afternoon, along with some other patients.

We tried to continue with the construction of the hangar as weather permitted. So much planning had gone into this structure. Years of longing for a hangar, while doing maintenance on the plane in sweltering or rainy conditions, had finally come to fruition and we had what we needed to erect this structure. The prefab hangar had been shipped in a container from the US some months earlier, and once the concrete floor had been cast, and everything was in place, two volunteers

from the U.S., Thomas Meigan and Larry Gervais, had flown into the capital where we'd picked them up and brought them in our Cessna 182 to Mabaruma, where they'd spend the next weeks piecing our hangar together. Larry has many years of construction experience, but this wasn't as easy as anticipated. Many of the pre-drilled holes did not line up. We had to re-drill quite a few, or resort to welding the pieces together. We also started to wonder whether the wood we'd ordered weeks before would ever be delivered. We'd been notified it was ready, but then the sawmill's tractor broke down deep in the jungle. We managed to use some shorter pieces in the meantime. We needed the wood to brace the walls as they were erected. What other difficulties were we going to face? Besides running out of drill bits, we had a major challenge when our main drill quit working.

What were we going to do? The trusses still needed to be bolted together. I spent the evening and early the next morning trying to repair it. But still I couldn't fix the broken switch. The first question Larry and Tom asked when they arrived for breakfast was: "Were you able to fix the drill?" Without it, our work would come to a halt. I had to break the bad news to them. But, some moments earlier, the Lord had directed my mind to another solution. I had recently ordered a heavy-duty mortar mixer. It had arrived with our shipment just a few days earlier. With the mortar mixer had come a drill chuck, which



meant the mixer could be used as a drill. Eighteen hundred watts of mixer/drill made our broken 500W drill look like a toy. This was really what we needed! And so the work continued. Also, in answer to our prayers, the wood was delivered, just when we had run out of any other pieces to use.

Very early into the building project, Larry wanted to know how the trusses were going to be lifted. We still didn't have the answer for him. Once the pieces were bolted together we had two lengths of 57 and 38 feet to raise onto the standing walls. This square tubing structure was no lightweight frame. It took our team of five people lifting together to simply move the trusses from the pile onto the ground, and about 10 of us to move them to the other side of the building site. How were we going to get them into position on top of the walls? The answer lay in the form of the electrical department's truck. It had a crane on the back, the only one in our whole village. What a blessing that the truck was available when we needed it. And so, little by little, the hurdles were overcome. Once the crane had those trusses lifted, and that took about two days, we knew we had broken the back of this project! Well, we really didn't want any broken backs... We had heard the very good news that further testing in Georgetown confirmed that Jerry had no serious injury from his fall. His CT scan revealed no fractures or hemorrhaging. He

had no broken bones. And what was more, Jerry let us know that the vision from his left eye was clear once again. We had so much to be thankful for!

As we taxied our planes into their new homes, we looked with joy at the new structure. What had been a strip of red dirt before was now a roofed shelter for our two aircraft. What an improvement! No more stringing up a tarp, no more drifting oil pan and trying to stay out of the mud puddles. This was such a big step forward! We want to say thank you very much to all who were involved in the planning of this hangar, and to all those who gave to make this a reality. We also appreciate Tom and Larry for all the hard work put into erecting it. We look forward to better and more efficient operations from our hangar. May all the glory go to our Heavenly Father for great things He hath done.

Darren and Joanne Lee, and their daughter, Rosanna, originally from South Africa, have enjoyed serving the people of Guyana since their arrival in the country in early 2017.





AWA Is On the Move!

Project developments in the AWA network

By Jud Wickwire, AWA vice president of operations

This year AWA had the privilege of taking delivery of two completely overhauled Cessna 182's painted in the vibrant AWA yellow and blue colors. The N81708 airplane or "The Pathfinder Plane," as it is commonly known, has been in our fleet for a long time. But after many years of mission service, it required a total restoration, which was done at Mission Maintenance Services (MMS) in Ohio. The result is an impressive work of care and craftsmanship that we are very excited to return to service in the Philippines.

Over in St. Louis, Missouri, we also took delivery of a matching Cessna 182 (N82HS) that was the result of collaborative efforts with Wings of Hope and high school students in Texas who participated in a STEM project to encourage careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Not only do the students get to be part of a hands-on learning program, but they also now get to see the application of their work of helping others as the airplane transports sick and injured patients to hospitals.

Richard Visscher and I had the privilege of delivering this airplane to Guyana. Overwater ferry flights require an extra level of preparation. We spent several hours carefully loading and securing the cargo. We each wore an inflatable PFD and carried an emergency life raft; we also briefed on the procedures for ditching and exiting the aircraft should such an event ever

occur. After a moving dedication ceremony in the Wings of Hope hangar, with their dozens of staff and volunteers, we were off to Florida and down through the Caribbean Islands.

Our most interesting event occurred as we approached the island of St. Thomas after four hours of endless blue waters from Turks and Caicos. Controllers in Puerto Rico had warned of potential heavy rain near St. Thomas, and as the island came into view, we could see the rain converging on our path from the opposite direction. The race was so close, in fact, that the downpour struck halfway down the runway as we rolled out after landing and the tower called the airport "below VFR conditions" (Visual Flight Rules). We had sufficient fuel for alternate islands, however, that would have required more time and paperwork we were happy to avoid.

The Island of St. Thomas was still recovering from the effects of the double hurricanes back in October. Many services were still limited or not available and accommodations were very limited. The first evidence for us were several mangled wrecks of airplanes on the side of the runway that had not survived the storms.

Another fuel stop in Grenada took us to Ogle Airport in Guyana. It was very exciting to be able to put two matching blue and yellow Cessna 182's together for the first time. As is always the case, these beautifully prepared airplanes are the result

of hundreds of hours of effort from volunteers and partner organizations, such as Wings of Hope and Mission Maintenance Services.

The arrival of the second Cessna 182 was soon followed by something else that is a manifestation of over 10 years of effort; a brand new 40' by 100' aircraft hangar! Following Bruce and Monique Wilkerson's untiring efforts, the massive concrete foundation and floor was finished in March. That was followed by volunteers, Tom Meighan and Larry Gervais, who worked closely with Darren and Joanne Lea in June to complete the final step of erecting the building. While bolting the hangar together may have only taken three weeks, it has been a very long road to this event. Multiple levels of permissions and approvals that finally allowed for a sliver of land just large enough to place the two airplanes side by side, and delivering the shipping container to the site without conventional cranes or flatbed trucks and then mixing and placing the enormous cement slab in a village with no ready-mix plant are only two examples of the challenges that had to be overcome.

At AWA our remarkable people at all levels demonstrate incredible ingenuity, resourcefulness, and commitment to getting the job done. Sometimes that is through existing skills and education, and other times it is by adapting to the dynamic conditions, but the common thread is an unwavering faith in God for strength and courage.

There is exciting activity across the AWA projects! At a large Toronto convention centre, I watched one man slowly move through the long rows of black chairs, carefully adjusting them

into perfectly spaced and aligned rows. All 5,700 of them! This was the preparation for the Ontario camp meeting serving the greater Toronto area. The Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists includes the largest population base in Canada, and some of the most isolated land masses to the north, as well. This is where AWA has become involved. With the community of Sioux Lookout as the base,

AWA aircraft and pilots, starting with Ryan and Janet Kennedy, will provide dedicated support to deliver ministry services to over 30 isolated communities. There is an excitement generating throughout the conference in anticipation of ministering to the often-overlooked indigenous communities.

At Wings of Hope, a Cessna 185 on amphibious floats is also completing field preparation, and will soon enter service here. This is just one of many active project developments happening across the AWA network.

In British Columbia, work continues on the Cessna 206, and also on amphibious floats, being prepared for service in Manaus,

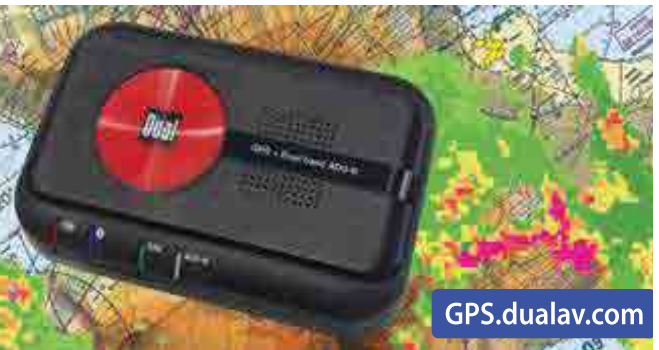
Brazil. This airplane is another impressive example of skill and experience. It will be better than new when it goes into service on the Amazon River, supporting the work of Amazon Lifesavers and ADRA. AWA is always looking for mission-minded pilots, mechanics, and other support personnel for long-term service, however, as this Brazil project gets closer to completion, we are still actively looking for a qualified pilot. To apply for this position or find out about other opportunities, call the office at 1-888-477-8948 or go to www.flyawa.org and click on the SERVE tab.



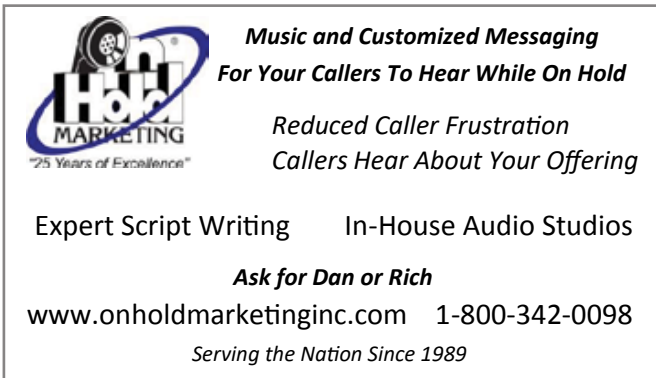
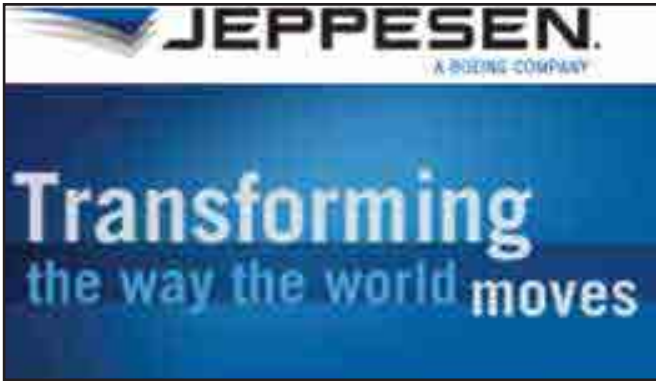
Jud Wickwire is AWA's vice president of operations

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