

Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION



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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.

IN CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

You Can Make a Difference!



Pastor Ric Swaningson

Triage is defined as "the assignment of degrees of urgency to wounds or illnesses to decide the order of treatment of a large number of patients or casualties." Triage is only necessary when resources are limited. Sadly, in the mission field of AWA, resources are often limited, and we are forced to perform triage, even when there are only two patients who need transportation. Not long ago a mission pilot flying a smaller Cessna was forced to make a decision. Would he save the child or save the older gentleman? The child was 12 years old. She had suffered a head injury. She was unconscious and her brain was swelling. She needed immediate medical

attention. There was no time to think. The aircraft was filled to capacity with the medical equipment and personnel to keep her alive and only one area for a stretcher was left. The older gentleman was suffering from a cardiac event, barely conscious. The grandson ran up to the aircraft. "PLEASE, help my grandfather!" he pleaded. The pilot was in a dilemma. What could he do?

When the gentleman became aware of the situation, he said, "Take the child. I am old and if God wishes me to continue, I will. I will wait the six hours for you to return." The pilot left with the child. Praise God, she made it just in time to get the needed help! The surgeons were able to open her head and drain the pressure, and she will live! However, upon the return flight to get the older man, the pilot received an announcement on his radio that the old gentleman had just died. The pilot suffered many days of anguish. "If we had only had a higher capacity aircraft," he thought, "we could have saved them both! Why, oh God, why?" I cannot tell you how much it pains one of us when we have to say no to someone who asks for help from AWA, especially when we have to say it to someone in real need.

As I pondered what I would write for this issue of *Airways*, I could feel the pressure mounting – realizing that 2018 is quickly coming to an end. This is the time of the year when every charity reaches out to its donors, saying, "We need you!" And indeed, AWA does need you. Everything we do during this holiday season directly affects our plans for next year. *What happens during this time of year literally makes next year possible.* Without generous donors, we do not get to say "yes" to people in need. If we fall short of our funding needs, I have to tell them, "I simply cannot help you." Entire countries, cities, communities, and families are in desperate need of flight support. Even here in the US, where we conduct as many Angel Flights as we can, I have had to turn down some requests for help, simply because we did not have funding, personnel, or equipment to make the entire journey.

Another challenge that we face is being able to provide for staffing needs. We do not have enough qualified personnel on the ground who are available to make some flights. We have missionaries in training who struggle for every penny donated in order to serve. Not one of our employees is over-compensated. We simply strive to provide enough sustenance to support the simplest lifestyle. AWA missionaries generously give their time and effort for the Lord's work!

Not long ago, I had to say no to a missionary family needing airlifting services in their developing community. The need was huge. In this third-world country people are dying daily because of lack of medical attention. Airlifting support would solve the problem, but

the problem is very complex. Aviation fuel is not readily available in many parts of the world, leaving us with little choice but to look at very expensive jet A fuel operating power source engines. Special training and missionaries who are willing to go are needed. It wasn't easy to say no to a missionary family that was in need, and I tried my best to soften the directness of that no. To their earnest plea I responded, "Well, I cannot right now, but I will pray..." knowing full well that it will take years to be able to supply the need – and in many cases it could be several years before we are in a position to help! So we turn them away. But it doesn't have to be this way. The Lord can work miracles – and we have seen them happen. And we can also make a difference in people's lives by using the gifts and resources that we have been blessed with.

AWA operates solely on donations. However, currently we are not flush with donations. We don't have enough in our emergency fund, which helps our AWA workers in the event they themselves are in need of medical care.

Your donation does make a difference. Most people do not realize just how far their dollar goes. Every dollar counts. Many assume we are granted funding by large church institutions. Let me share with you a conversation I had with someone the other day. The person asked, "Why don't you just write a check and pay your mission workers out of AWA's budget? Why do the missionaries participate in raising funds? Why don't you just have the church (conference) write you a check for what you need?"

I responded, "Yes, indeed, that would be nice. We could write the check, but the funding comes directly from the donor, not the church or some grant funding." Each dollar that helps us airlift a person to the hospital comes from you, our AWA supporters. So when we are blessed and receive enough donated funds, we then write checks to pay those who minister. Then we write the check to pay for the fuel. Then we write the check to purchase medical supplies. Then we write the check to maintain our aircraft so that each flight is safe. Then we write the check to pay the hard-working office staff who minister to the ministers and keep AWA organized, ship supplies to the missionaries, and stay very busy sharing about AWA at various events and churches.

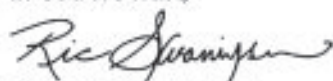
Here are some of AWA's needs for the end of 2018 and into 2019:

- Missionary and Support Staff
- New Missionaries in Training
- Mission Project Funding and Support Staff
- Equipment Maintenance (Aircraft)
- Equipment Acquisition
- Funding for New Mission Projects (Development)
- Quality Office Equipment
- Funding for AWA Awareness (Publications and Presentations)

Will you please prayerfully consider a generous donation this final quarter of the year? Then will you prayerfully consider making a monthly commitment to AWA to keep the institution flowing smoothly? Feel the joy in your heart, knowing that you are touching someone and helping people around the world. Give someone hope and the chance to hear and experience what God can do in their life! Everyone that is working with AWA puts all their faith in God. We all believe that our Lord will return – and very soon. AWA missionaries and staff want to help spread the Word to all to ensure that every last one will hear about Jesus and experience the peace and joy and hope that He offers. Will you be a part of this mission?

We pray faithfully for our donors and their families at our meetings and in our "alone time" with God. Please keep AWA in your prayers daily. We trust in the Lord fully, that He will bless AWA's work in these last days and that it will be through His children who hear His voice and respond. ❖

In God We Trust,



Pastor Ric Swaningson
President/CEO

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ABOUT THE COVER



Fulfilling the mission of AWA to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people in remote parts of the world can be accomplished only by the team effort of dedicated volunteers, staff, missionaries – and donors. Featured on the cover is Alyse LaLonde, who held baby Hosea while the bigger kids played games during an AWA mission trip to Nicaragua (see Airways Second Quarter 2018 edition). The students not only built a safe bridge for the village people to use, but also built a bridge of love, sharing Jesus with young and old alike. Without your help, such endeavors would not come to fruition. Thank you for being part of our team!

Photo by Zack Wickwire

We Are *So* Grateful

I am thankful for our AWA workers – our pilots, missionaries, mechanics, volunteers, and office staff. Everyone at AWA gives their very best to the organization because of their desire to serve. I want these precious people to know how much they are appreciated. AWA workers are the "Best of the Best!" I invite you to call or send an e-mail to express your appreciation for them, and to lift up everyone at AWA in your prayers. Thank YOU!

– Pastor Ric Swaningson

I am incredibly thankful for the way God has blessed me through the support and interaction of others. Since accepting the call to join AWA, the past few years have been filled with a flood of blessings, from those who support us, to family members, to the people we have come into contact with due to daily trials and challenges. I am also thankful that I have a determined and like-minded wife with whom I am privileged to work. Through all these relationships, I am reminded daily to be selfless and loving, no matter what the situation may be.

– Ryan Kennedy

"I am so grateful to God that even though my Permanent Resident application process has been longer than we expected and with many challenges, during this whole time I have been able to live with my lovely husband and have a happy and blessed life together. Even though I am not able to travel outside the country, this year we were deployed to our mission."

– Janet Kennedy

"I am thankful for Jesus. Years ago, when I was first converted to Christianity, I remember praying that, one day, I could be in full-time service for Christ. I am awed and amazed at how fully He has answered my request through leading me to AWA! I am also grateful for my wife, who unceasingly amazes me, and that we have two healthy children who have been homeschooled and raised in the mission field. This experience has given them a different perspective on people and what life is really all about, which is serving others."

– Bill LaBore



Ric and Dawn Swaningson



Pastors Janet and Bill Kennedy



"I am thankful for my husband, who works hard to be the main provider for our family. Because of his work ethic and skills as a journeyman plumber, I'm able to work in this ministry as a support staff. I thank God that He has blessed Marc with the mind and hands for this hard job. And that everyone needs a good plumber!"

– Jenna Volkwyn



I am thankful for our faith that binds us as family. I am thankful for Karen, my wife, and our amazing life adventure for almost 24 years. Together we proudly watch our boys, Jake and Zack, now young men, as they begin their own independent journeys in life.

– Jud Wickwire

I am thankful for life, for health, and for strength, and for the privilege of having some small part to play in finishing God's work on earth. Most of all, I am thankful for a loving heavenly Father, for Jesus, and for everything that He has done for me. Lastly, I'm thankful for a loving husband who is patient with my busy life, helpful, and understanding.

– Pat Humphrey



We are thankful for the opportunity to serve in a foreign mission land. This once-in-a-lifetime experience has changed us from the inside out. The rewards overwhelmingly outweigh anything else. A huge thank you to all who make this a reality.

– Bruce and Monique Wilkerson

"We're so thankful for our prayer warriors and team of supporters who encourage us all the time. They keep us going and able to continue serving in the mission field, even when there are challenges in our way."

– Nancy and Norman Hansen

My blessings and my joys are my family. I love to spend time with them throughout the year; and especially during the holidays, having all my family together adds the warmth and peace that I cherish. There are some who live too far away to join us, but they call and we chat or send pics to each other. I'm grateful for my husband, Ron, and for each of my children, Leanne, Adam and Lauren, who are all fine young adults (well some not as young as others, but we won't say who). My grandchildren (Brianna, Dylan, Madi and Mia) make me laugh and we have wonderful fun times together. I am truly blessed and love each one of them "to the moon and back."

– Sharon Williams





The Faces of Need

By Joanne Lee

“Do you want some Bolivares?,” someone offered the other day, handing us some colourful notes of Venezuelan currency. “It’s worthless now!” “Two hundred thousand can’t even buy a tray of eggs!”

The tragic stories from neighbouring Venezuela are frequent topics of conversation here. Many relatives are coming across to where they can get food and health care. The Venezuelan crisis is having

devastating effects on people’s lives. We’re hearing reports of children dying for the want of food and medicine. Although Venezuela is only a few miles away, there is a border between us, and we have never been there. Somehow the problems “over there” are a little removed from our “comfortable” existence here in the northern corner of Guyana. But what if Venezuela comes to us?

The Amerindian tribe of Warao people are becoming a familiar sight along our roads. Many of them

barefoot, they make the trek to the water where their fishing boats wait. (The name Warao actually means “the boat people,” after the Warao’s lifelong and intimate connection to the water.) Little by little, in these same dugout canoes, families have left their river communities, Amacuro and Orinoco, on the border of Venezuela, and have moved across onto our side, so that now one hundred and three people, including children, have “settled” at our nearby Khan Hill.

This is a matter of survival. They don't have food. The little money they had is now worthless. They are accustomed to living in swamped areas, surviving without much of what we would call modern-day comforts. Khan Hill is high ground, and they can get away from the pesky sand flies. To the Warao people this life may look attractive, but to those of us looking on, we wonder how they can survive. They don't speak English or Spanish, which makes it very hard to find work (something already not plentiful here).

From my balcony I have a good view of the busy street in front of our house. Looking out one day, I watch a group of Warao people pass by. Suddenly the heavens open and we have the typical unexpected downpour of rain. The women and children try to hustle down the road. Where they are going to find shelter, I don't know. Some babies are naked. They have no umbrellas. Many are barefoot. It's a long way to the market. Would they even have money to purchase basic necessities?

A friend of ours from Khan Hill, Priscilla by name, came to our gate and described how bad the situation is. The Warao people are crowding into the small church building, but there are simply too many of them. They are sharing pots and taking turns to cook when they have food. Something she said keeps ringing in my ears. "They are Amerindian people, just like we." She is doing what she can, sharing her supplies (the little she has between herself and her numerous children). Her own situation appears pitiful to us. Her husband, Remel, goes to find work for long stretches at a time. It seems he is never able to bring home the money he tries to save. Either he gets robbed, or he doesn't get paid for the work he has done. Things aren't going well for him in Georgetown, where he is part of a construction team. He was injured on the worksite, falling from 18 feet, and dislocating his shoulder. He





spent some time in hospital and was now ready to come home. "Do you have any flights from Georgetown?" He was willing to fly that very day. There had been a lull in the flying. "No, we don't know of any upcoming flights, but we'll contact you if something comes up." Thankfully, a seat did become available, and he was able to get home. What a blessing the AWA plane is!

We drive over to Khan Hill to see the situation for ourselves. The makeshift quarters from tarps or leaves with hammocks strung below are quite a sight. We know how much rain falls in these areas, and how heavy the downpours can be. Remel takes us on a tour. "Boukaia (hello)!" He greets them. "Yakera? (you ok?)" "Yakera, yakera (good, good)," they answer. He explains that they have no food. The people tell him they haven't eaten in two days. We notice a young child climbing the wooden ladder to the upper level of their "house." His thin legs make his already protruding belly look even bigger. The signs of malnutrition are very obvious. Another little girl is now under the care of her grandparents. Both her parents are tending to younger siblings who need to be hospitalized, the youngest being

in Georgetown for treatment. We learn that their diet is very impoverished, and they typically drink a lot of sugar water. One of their main foods is "Dashin," a starchy root which grows in wet conditions.

The big sack of rice and small amount of salt we load up and deliver seem a drop in the bucket. A hundred people would make short work of that rice. What about other needs? Yes, we have some donated goods in barrels. We have some clothes, soap, and a few small items that might brighten their day. Priscilla says that some things which were given to some had caused others to weep, there not being enough for everybody.

How does the God of heaven look down and see the poor living beside us and yet we continue living our lives in relative plenty? I really struggle to know what to do. Why should I be more privileged than they? How do they manage to stay positive and trusting in a Heavenly Father? How can we call ourselves missionaries and look on in the face of such poverty? And yet how are we to help? We learn that there are more groups of relocated people in other areas such as Yarakita and White Creek. The government is

involved, but the food they've supplied doesn't last very long. If they are given handouts, more might arrive, causing an even bigger issue. The solution seems more complex than buying food for the hungry and clothing the naked. We are firm believers in "teaching someone how to fish," yet we read in 1 John 3:17, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" We are confronted again with the need to create jobs, to create industry. A wood-working shop? What do you do out in the middle of the jungle when everything needs to be brought in by boat? Local resources? Wood. Coconuts. Coconut Oil. Soap. We try to brainstorm. We would need buildings. We would need a workshop. Where does one start? Yes, there is possibly some land for a trade school. Is this the answer to our problems? Then we realize we are only two families, and taking on something like this would require much wisdom, teamwork, manpower, and commitment. Our sewing classes are going well, but are too small-scale. We need more sewing machines and fabric, then we could teach them how to sew. We could teach them how to make coconut oil and coconut soap. We could...

And so we are making an urgent Macedonian cry for help. If you feel the Lord impressing you to volunteer your time or send means to help the Warao people, please contact AWA via e-mail at aa@flyawa.org. Thank you! ❖

ABOUT THE WRITER

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



Creative Ways to Give to

AWA NOW AN APPROVED CHARITY FOR THE CFC

We are so grateful for our military – every branch and everyone who serves their country every day! Federal workers work with their country's needs in mind, as well. We appreciate the dedication of those who serve others.

Adventist World Aviation is proud of our heritage, providing life-saving aviation support in remote mission locations and participating in homeland humanitarian relief efforts. As a 100-percent donor-funded non-profit, it is a blessing for us to expand our reach to new sources of potential donors.

This year we have the opportunity to invite more people to become donors to AWA through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is the only authorized charitable giving drive for employees in the U.S. federal workplace. Charities must apply annually to be included, and this year AWA has been added to the ranks of many deserving charities.

Through this campaign, federal and military employees can make charitable payroll donations to the charity of their choice. Each approved charity is given a CFC identification number. **AWA's identification number is #96724.** The annual campaign is currently taking place and continues through January 11, 2019.

Please share this information with your family and friends. Share it through social media, on your Facebook page and through your e-mail contacts to help spread the word that our AWA CFC number is **96724**. People who choose to donate will need to use this five-digit number to indicate which charity they want to donate to.

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE DECEMBER 31

During this time of year, a large percentage of people make their year-end donations, which come in many different forms. Most people simply write a check and mail it to AWA in the envelope that is attached to the *Airways* magazine or in our missionary newsletters. With a rise in the use of

debit and credit cards, electronic transfers have become a more frequently-used option for donating. Others are simply using PayPal or other electronic funds transfers to make donations. AWA has convenient links to make donations on our website at www.flyawa.org.

Additional ways to donate include making year-end gifts of stock. If you'd like to give a gift of stock, please call our office at 919-938-2920 to arrange for a stock transfer.

AWA supporters who want to engage more people in their year-end giving can organize small fundraisers or special offerings on behalf of AWA. Christmas time often draws people together at church and family gatherings. It is a special time to show you care more about others by putting together an offering for the AWA missionary or mission site that touches your heart. Some families exchange small homemade gifts in lieu of buying expensive gifts, so that the money saved can be used to support mission work.

Last year, AWA was blessed with the gift of a Cessna 182 airplane that will be deployed in Uganda. The gift of an aircraft is a tremendous in-kind gift. Because AWA is an aviation ministry, it is natural that people think of AWA when they are considering parting with an airplane they are no longer using. In-kind gifts can also be made of other property of value. Anyone considering this type of gift can contact AWA to discuss their options.

AWA is thankful for all the gifts that we are provided. Our missionary work is funded by the generosity of the wonderful people who believe in our ministry and care about the work that AWA does around the world. No matter the size of the gift, the love and thoughtfulness that comes with each gift is a blessing to us. ❖



This Cessna 182 is a gift that will "keep on giving" and is used to serve the people of Uganda.

On the *Brink* of Progress

By Laura LaBore

Deep in the grasses that are growing wild, lies a wonderful thing: An airstrip. It's 2,000 feet of amazing potential! We imagine this land just yearning to be used to its full potential...at least that is how we feel!

AWA's mission base was located here because of its great location. There are many awesome stories of how God helped AWA to acquire this 25 acres of land. The first missionary family was able to secure the land and get the airstrip graded. With lots of work, the second missionary family

was able to get the permit and make it legal. Because we have no airplane right now, and the strip wasn't being used, torrential rains have eroded parts of it, and the weeds quickly found a place to grow. We figure the weeds will probably keep the erosion at a minimum. Living on a shoe-string budget, all available money has been put into getting the mission house up so that we'd have somewhere to stay. Now that that is done, we can focus our energy onto the next phase, which we are so excited about – getting the plane and flying!

The airplane that we will fly now sits safely in a container in Washington State, all packed up and waiting to be shipped. On this end, we are doing all we can to get the paperwork pushed through for the importation of the plane. Because of the Christmas rush of Filipinos abroad sending their families boxes of love, there will be a huge delay of getting the plane cleared through customs once it gets here. We are so excited, though, because it is closer than ever before!

Before we can improve the airstrip, we need to put in a road. Right now,



This empty field and soggy ground is the current state of the airstrip for landing – AWA mission plane.



The Pathfinder plane in its container, awaiting shipment to the Philippines.

"We are sitting on the brink of so many wonderful things happening for the mission base."



the road crosses the airstrip, and that will just cause more damage. We have had someone appraise the road, but the bulk of the work cannot be done until March. We are still in the rainy season, and the land quickly turns into a mud bath when it rains.

A kind donor has stepped up to buy us a tractor with a mower. We have been praying for one for a couple of years now! We will then be able to mow the airstrip. Finding a small tractor here, though, has proved more challenging than we had thought, so the great search continues! Options

include buying one in the States and putting it into the container with the plane, but it would have to be a brand (Kubota) that is common here, so that we can get parts more easily.

So, you see, we are sitting on the brink of so many wonderful things happening for the mission base. It's invigorating to realize how close we are, but yet, sometimes, the mountain of things to get through seems to loom over us. When it's things that we have no control over, like the Christmas rush, rain, paperwork sitting in someone's office, and lack

of funding, it can get frustrating. But then, we have to remember that it's all in God's hands. We have put it there, and so that is where we need to leave it. We will make every effort that is ours to make, and then try not to stress when it's a God-sized problem.

Here is a quick run-down of the three main items that will enable this airbase to be in full operation:

- All-weather access road to the property
- Airstrip further developed and improved
- Hangar for aircraft storage and hangar

All of this will cost \$285,000. So far, \$20,000 has come in! When we look at the tall grasses waving in the wind, we imagine the impact this airbase will have on Filipino lives once this becomes a reality. We will be praying. Will you join us? ♦

WHY *We* GIVE TO AWA

Donors share their appreciation for the work of AWA

MARK AND LINDA HADDAD

Mark and I first met Bill and Laura Labore when their daughter, Dani, was just two years old. They came to our church in Redding, California, and gave a presentation when they were preparing to go to Guyana. Having spent almost nine years ourselves in Singapore and Thailand as missionaries for the Adventist Church, we are very interested and supportive of people sharing the gospel of Jesus in places all over the world. We were impressed with what Bill and Laura shared and we joined their team of financial supporters. Over the years we have followed their ministry, we have prayed for them, and we have enjoyed seeing them when they have come through Redding on their fundraising trips.

Our own two children are grown now, and we have been getting itchy feet to serve the Lord in other countries again. In August, Mark was able to retire from his position in Redding, our daughter got married, and we put our house up for sale. It has been a busy time, downsizing and moving in with Mark's mom. But I happened to get on Facebook briefly on September 26, and I read Laura's post saying that the plane was in a container and there was space for a much-needed tractor mower, if someone could donate one. I thought about it a bit, but got busy again. The next morning the Lord reminded me about the Facebook post and the need for a mower. I went in to talk to Mark about it and showed him the post. No one had offered anything, and we talked about donating the funds so a mower could



be purchased and put in the container with the plane. Mark messaged Bill about it, and he exclaimed what an answer to their prayers that would be. We are just humbled that we get to be part of God's work. We are going to be doing some traveling during this next year, and we will be helping the Labores in Palawan for seven weeks during the months of February and March, and we look forward to being a blessing to them in their ministry.

— Mark and Linda Haddad

BOB AND LYNNE STOCKFORD

My wife, Lynne, and I have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. When she was only 14 years old, Lynne joined as a result of studying the Bible with a very nice female physician who belonged to the Salisbury,



North Carolina church. Seven years later, when I was 24, I also joined the church through the witness of my employer. Lynne and I met and fell in love at the Salisbury church, and have been married for 41 years. We enjoy having Bible studies with people in the community, and working to minister to their needs. We believe that AWA shares our desire to minister to people's physical and spiritual needs, only on a much larger scale.

When AWA came to our local community we were really excited. Pastor Ric Swaningson spoke at the Little Creek church, which is located just six or seven miles from the new headquarters of AWA in Smithfield, North Carolina. Pastor Ric told stories about many of the dedicated missionaries they have sponsored. We learned that literally thousands of precious souls had been airlifted to medical facilities where they received the care they desperately needed. If not for the work of those lifesaving pilot-missionaries, many of these folks may not have survived. It doesn't get any better than this, friend – reaching out to minister to the sick and injured. Of course, not only are these indigenous peoples receiving needed medical attention, but they

are learning the precious truths of the gospel that we have been so privileged to possess. Lynne and I feel confident that our donations are going to a very worthy cause, and that the mission of the church is moving forward in part, through our good friends at AWA. We would like to appeal to each of you to consider rallying around Adventist World Aviation with your prayers and financial support.

– Bob and Lynne Stockford



Bob and Lynne Stockford



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



Many Hands, One Purpose

By Jud Wickwire

There is a phrase about helicopters that is most commonly stated by airplane mechanics that goes like this: Helicopters are “thousands of parts flying in formation.” It is an amusing statement that I have to admit is kind of true; helicopters have a lot of moving parts and I fly them myself! Humor aside, Adventist World Aviation could also be described in such a way. Five countries, 20 airplanes, close to 100 people, and countless elements of infrastructure and support. All with the singular purpose of fulfilling the calling of Romans 10:15 (NLT): “*And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring the good news!’*”

One part of that formation came together recently in Seattle, Washington. The Pathfinder plane, after a complete restoration at Mission Maintenance Services in Coshocton, Ohio, was delivered to Seattle by Laura LaBore and her father, Jerry Kopitzke (also a retired mission pilot/pastor). A 40-foot shipping container was purchased and delivered to the yard of Ground Up Road Construction, owned by Scott and Susan Stultz.



A group of workers from California, Arizona, Texas, Oregon, and British Columbia helped to disassemble and pack the Pathfinder plane that is bound for the Philippines.

Nik Nagy flew in from Arizona, Tom Meighan came from Texas, Sean de Asis came from California, Kyle and Rebecca Stevenson drove in from Oregon, and I drove down from British Columbia with a truck load of tools. Sounds complicated? It was, but this is the nature of what we all do at AWA nearly every day. What followed was four working days of carefully disassembling the airplane and then meticulously packing and securing it inside the shipping container. Soon

it will be on a container ship sailing across the Pacific to the Philippines! A big thanks to everyone who came together with the right set of skills and determination to get it done!

The formation is coming together in Ontario, Canada, too. Pilot Ryan Kennedy and his wife, Janet, who will be working with the community, have just deployed to the town of Sioux Lookout. This is another amazing example of multiple resources working together for the common

goal of delivering health and lifestyle programs to dozens of isolated First Nations communities. Local church membership, pastoral staff, visiting groups, and ADRA are all working together to deliver different but complementary ministry. Support flights will be beginning soon, using a Cessna 182 on an interim basis while the Cessna 185 floatplane is completed and imported into Canada.

As we prepare this Cessna 185 and other aircraft for service, we are always looking for ways to make improvements. Technological advances, particularly in avionics and instruments, are becoming more readily available and cost-effective. The vacuum system of small planes is particularly high maintenance. There are a number of components: an engine mounted vacuum pump, plus a complex assembly of hoses, filter, gauge, and regulator. All this to drive



Garmin G5 digital displays will replace the current vacuum system on AWA's Cessna 185 to be imported to Canada for service.



Joshua and Josy Fix, and their two boys, are preparing for their deployment to the Philippines, where they will assist the LaBores in the work there.

"It is very exciting to be a part of the amazing things that happen when people respond to God's call to action."

several gyroscopic instruments that the pilot uses to maintain situational awareness. With recent approvals we can now replace this entire collection with two small Garmin G5 digital displays that have virtually no maintenance with the added benefit of being nine pounds lighter. While the cost of \$6,000 is significant, it will pay back fully within the first few years in maintenance savings alone. Our strategy is to make this investment in each of our aircraft if the vacuum system requires any significant repair. With this approach and other improvements, our fleet of airplanes can safely remain in service for decades to come.

I do want to recognize our missionaries in training (MITs). Becoming a mission pilot or mechanic is complex journey. In the aviation industry today, there is a very high demand for pilots, so their focus on

mission flying requires even greater resolution. We have a number of young people working their way through training and raising their financial support, all while still juggling work and family responsibilities. Josh and Josy Fix and their two young boys, Caleb and Isaac, are one such family that has shown incredible determination over the past several years. Josh has completed his full A&P and is rapidly approaching commercial and IFR ratings bringing them much closer to joining the LaBores in the Philippines. If you are not supporting an AWA missionary family, this young couple are worthy candidates, and you will enjoy their newsletters!

Thank you to all of you who help us to keep all of the elements of AWA in formation! It is a complex and challenging task, but it is also very exciting to be a part of the amazing things that happen when people respond to God's call to action. ❖

AWA to Partner with ADRA Uganda

By Jud Wickwire

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has had a notable presence in Uganda for over 30 years and has built a solid reputation of delivering community support, humanitarian aid, and emergency response in a timely and efficient manner. AWA is responding to ADRA's request for air support to add significant capacity and efficiency to the work ADRA is already doing.



Charles Aguilar, ADRA Uganda country director

ADRA country director Charles Aguilar has this to say about the benefits of AWA aircraft support: *"Uganda is a land-locked country in East-Central Africa. Road travel outside of Kampala is very challenging. It is very expensive and time-consuming to bring church workers and trainers (in health-gospel, education, and livelihood training) to the areas where ADRA is working. A dedicated aircraft will definitely*

help with the logistics – [bringing] doctors, engineers, and other specialists whose time and resources are very limited."

Just one typical example is the town of Kotido, where ADRA operates a field office with a variety of ongoing programs that require staff to travel frequently to the ADRA country offices in Kampala. The one-way drive of 480 km in generally good road conditions takes 10 hours. But during rains or other circumstances that lead to slowdowns, it can



ADRA vehicles traversing Ugandan roads

easily turn into a two-day trip – and that is only going one way! On the other hand, a Cessna 182 can make the direct one-way trip of 350 km in less than an hour and a half, carrying any combination of up to three passengers or supplies, totaling about 800 pounds. This can have a dramatic impact on the efficiencies of personnel and finances.

The cities of Kaabong, Abim, Pader, Agago, Gitgum, Adjumani, Yumbe, and Kisoro, to name a few, are all a 9- to 12-hour drive. Furthermore, the plane can fly between these field offices in the region, adding even more efficiency. Many similar cases could be described, but it is clear that the airplane can help ADRA do more of what they do best – changing lives.

Charles goes on to describe the impact of one such program:

"It is clear that the airplane can help ADRA do more of what they do best – changing lives."

"ADRA sponsors the Advocacy and Life Skill School Club in Karamoja, Uganda. The children of this club help to defend children's rights, for example, [with regard to] education. They have helped to ensure that fewer children, especially girls, are taken out of school, if they are to be married at a very young age.

"Rita (15), who lost both her parents, helped her good friend, Betty, get back to school. Sixteen-year-old Betty, who has also lost her father, was perceived as an economic burden by her own brother. He saw greater benefit to the family for her to be married off or used as labor in the home. As a woman, Betty's mother doesn't have much to say.

"The young people at ADRA's school club visited Betty's family and convinced the brother to let Betty get back to school. Rita shares her books with Betty so she can keep up with her school work.

"Adra works every day to advocate the rights of girls and women – because all people are equal."

In response to the request, AWA has already acquired a Cessna 182 from a generous donor. While this aircraft is in great condition, it does require a major modification to best equip it for use in Africa. Due to the extremely high cost of 100LL aviation gasoline, AWA will be converting this airplane to a compression ignition (diesel) engine that is designed to operate on readily available and much cheaper



Helping ADRA with their transportation needs will ultimately improve the lives of Ugandan children.

jet fuel. The combined fuel cost savings and increased efficiency of this engine will result in an impressive 75 percent reduction in hourly fuel costs! As with everything, however, this does come at a significant cost. The full initial conversion (firewall forward, including propeller), will cost over \$200,000 USD. While costly, this will pay back over the long run in operational savings. It also puts in place new technology that adds value and adds many years of life to this aircraft. SOLOY, a leading engine conversion company, will be installing this proven engine in the airplane. To maximize the efficiency of this project they have offered us the privilege of being their launch customer. We are very excited about this opportunity to work with a business with such a long history in the aviation industry.

As was pointed out to me years ago, "airplanes are not for the faint of heart." This is so true, yet the benefits of airplanes in delivering the gospel and helping people who need it the most are dramatic, and they cannot be duplicated in any other way. Please consider supporting this partnership with ADRA and AWA! ♦

ABOUT THE WRITER

Jud Wickwire is AWA's vice president of operations.



This AWA Cessna 182 assigned to Uganda will require major modifications to keep its operation cost effective.

Life as a Missionary Kid!

By Danielle LaBore

I held the small needle above the woman's shaking hand, and quickly jabbed the needle into her finger before she changed her mind about getting her sugar checked. High blood sugar is common here, even for young adults. Since I grew up as a missionary kid, I've been checking sugars for as long as I can remember. Although my brother doesn't have the stomach for medical work, he too, has been checking blood sugars since he was little. He was now sitting next to me, at a make-shift table, which we were using for a sugar-checking

station. We were in San Vicente, a town about three hours north of where we live. We had arrived a few days before for an evangelistic series that my parents and local AWA teammates, the Espinosas, had arranged, and we had all been busy ever since. We were happy that Earyl Espinosa could be with us too, because she is our age and my best friend here.

Although doing health outreach seems very fun and exciting, it is routine for us and it became rather boring after a while. To "spice things up," Earyl, my brother Micah, and I

have found ways to make it fun. This usually would result in competitions, such as: "Who had the patient with the highest blood sugar?" or "Who had the most patients?" and "Who could check sugars the fastest?" This makes it a lot more fun.

I first started doing medical outreach with my mother when I was in Guyana, South America, which is where I grew up. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I was young. Sometimes we would take the AWA mission boat and go to remote villages that were tucked neatly inside the mangroves by the river. Sometimes I would even get to go on medevacs in the yellow airplane with my mom. People find it strange that I hate flying in small planes now. It is probably because I have seen things in that plane that even most adults haven't seen, and I associate flying in small airplanes with all my past medical outreach experiences.

I've seen pretty much anything from dead rotting bodies, to live ones that smelled just as bad from their festering wounds. Patients with rotting teeth don't smell very well, and vomiting pregnant women are never fun when you're sitting next to them. We would also see a great many of what the Guyanese called "chop-ups." A chop-up is when two or more



Danielle (Dani) and her brother, Micah, check blood sugars for patients.



Danielle watches over a patient during a medevac flight.



Danielle helps with airplane maintenance.

people get in a fight with machetes. The fight is usually over either a woman or gold in the mining fields. One such incident, which has always stuck firmly in my mind, had the flesh of his elbow hanging on by only a few strands of muscle, which left the bone protruding out of the skin.

Although I don't like flying, I still love doing mission work overseas and have seriously considered becoming a long-term missionary. Yes, I know this sounds very exciting, and to some extent it is; but everyone seems to assume that we have one exciting thing happen after the next, that

this is just one fun adventure, but it isn't. Sometimes the adventure is just living. Here, we can't just go to the supermarket and buy everything we want. We have to make everything from scratch; even the basics like bread and tortillas. Until recently, in the Philippines, we didn't have a washing machine, so we would spend

"Even though life is hard sometimes, it's definitely worth seeing my friends in heaven."

a good part of the day just washing our clothes; and of course, we don't have a dryer, so we have to hang all of our clothes on a line and wait for the sun to dry them. If it's rainy season, it could take days to have dry clothes again. But because we've given up all of the niceties of America, we can touch so many lives and bring them closer to God. Even though life is hard sometimes, it's definitely worth seeing my friends in heaven. ❖



A young "pilot" tests her wings.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Danielle LaBore, daughter of Bill and Laura LaBore, who manage AWA's Philippines project, has spent most of her life in the mission field. She is

prayerfully considering the prospect of becoming a long-term missionary when she grows up.

We Are a Team!

By Edgar Espinosa

I was sweeping off the front porch when a woman from the village yelled "Tao Pol," a usual calling as you approach a house, or need someone's attention inside, since we don't have things like doorbells. She had come to me last week with an infected wound. Laura LaBore, our teammate, and I were able to help her with the care that she needed, and the wound was healing beautifully. The large smile on her face showed how grateful she was.

This time, however, she hadn't come for herself. She had come for her patron daughter. Here in the Philippines, if you are getting married, then you get patrons to sponsor items for the wedding. There will be a patron of the cake, patron of the dress, etc. She had been her patron, and had looked after her ever since. Her patron daughter, Rovilyn, walked up to the house, carrying her four-year-old daughter, Jenna Faith, in her arms. At that same time, Laura, who is a nurse, had walked over to our house. It was shaping up to be a busy morning!

Rovilyn was worried about her daughter that still sat in her arms, head buried in her mom's shoulder indicating her shyness. Jenna Faith had had a fever of several days and when the fever stopped, her eyes had turned yellow. She was wondering what she could do to help her. Many people here don't like to go to the hospital and will use natural medicines whenever possible, because traditional medicine can be unaffordable, not to mention the difficulty of getting to the hospital, and the very long waits that always accompany a trip to see the doctor.

Laura had some ideas for how to help, and suspected hepatitis, but wasn't completely sure. We set up an appointment to go to her house after Laura could find out some more information.

At 0700 the next morning, we started up the truck and traveled down the dirt road to Rovilyn's home. Most people here are awake and getting ready for the day by 0500, so an 0700 visit is neither rude nor unexpected.

When we drove up to the little bamboo home, Jenna Faith was playing outside, and Rovilyn was in the yard, and greeted us happily.

I translated for Laura, who is still learning our language of Tagalog. She wanted to try something she had read in her Village Medical Manual that would test for hepatitis. You collect a urine sample in a clear jar, and place on a lid. You then shake it vigorously, and if the froth is yellowish, it is probably hepatitis. Of course, this isn't a perfect test, but she didn't want to go to the hospital, and when her other daughter had had yellow eyes, they only fed her milk and candy, and eventually it went away. We were hoping to at least get an idea of what she was suffering with, and to give her a better diet. After shaking the urine, the froth was yellow. We told her how she could use different poultices and also how eating papaya leaves could help, and to stay away from sugar. The mom seemed excited to try these things to help her daughter.

We are very grateful for you, our teammates back in the States, who

YOU CAN HELP!

AWA missionaries allow Jesus to shine through them by providing practical help for those they serve. When needs arise for food, medical care, clothing, and other items, people often reach out to AWA missionaries, and your generous donations make it possible for them to meet

those needs. One dollar will buy a child's toothbrush, \$12 will buy a pair of shoes, and \$22 will feed a family of four. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of needy people in Palawan.



Raylene Espinosa translates instructions (given by Laura LaBore) for a young mother on how to care for her sick child.

“Without you, we wouldn’t be able to reach out,
and show the love of Jesus to others.”

have supported this project for so many years. Without you, we wouldn’t be able to reach out, and show the love of Jesus to others. Just as they have patrons here, you are a patron to the people themselves, as your donations and prayers have a daily impact on their lives. Thank you! ❖

ABOUT THE WRITER



Edgar Espinosa has managed AWA’s 25 hectares of property in Palawan for more than 10

years. He and his wife, Raylene, along with their two children, are an integral part of the AWA Philippines project, making a difference in the lives of others through their selfless involvement in teaching, translating, evangelism, children’s ministries, medical missions, outreach, and other activities.



Laura LaBore conducts a simple test for hepatitis.



Prayer Makes a Difference

By Norman Hansen

It was early in the morning and I had risen before dawn to be able to spend some time in prayer and meditation in God's Word. I had asked the Holy Spirit to guide me in everything I did that day. Soon after, even before I had eaten breakfast, a young man in his mid-twenties from the nearby village came to the mission where we lived, wanting to buy nails for a project he was working on.

As a way to reach out to the local people, we have been selling nails at a discounted price. This not only helps them, but gives us an opportunity to get to know them better. There is no financial benefit for us, but we do it as a way to have a positive contact with the villagers.

The young man had black earrings on both ears and orange-colored hair on the top part of his head and he seemed to be distressed and in a hurry. As I went to get some change for his payment, a very distinctive thought entered my mind... "Ask him if he needs prayer." I thought this was a strange idea but immediately wondered whether the Holy Spirit was asking me to do this or if it was just my own thought. I don't usually ask people if

It is so wonderful to allow the Holy Spirit to direct us with His still small voice and use us if we are listening.

they need prayer when they come to buy nails, but this morning it was quite clear that that is what I should do. So, I decided to ask, and if he said no, then I would have at least done my part.

As I gave him his change I asked him, "Is there something you would like me to pray about?" He was hesitant at first and declined my offer, trying not to make eye contact, but as we continued talking he finally said, "There is something I would like you to pray for. A few days ago, a curse was put on me and I was told that I will only live four more years, and then I will die. It's something that is really bothering me."

As I listened, I felt goosebumps all over my body! Now I understood why the Holy Spirit had prompted me to pray with him. He knew what was going on in this young man's life and had impressed me to request prayer for him! I immediately reassured him of the power of Jesus to overcome any curse or demonic attack, since He is all-powerful. We prayed together and he told me that he would like to become a Christian.

This experience made me wonder how many times we have ignored the still small voice of the Holy Spirit and have missed opportunities to reach out to hurting souls who are still in chains, wandering far from the love of Jesus. There are so many like this young man who walk in fear,

not knowing the good news of the freedom that we have in Jesus and are victims of the enemy of souls. Jesus, and His sacrifice on the cross, is the only answer to their deepest needs, and you and I are called to be missionaries for Jesus wherever we are and tell them about Him and set these captives free!

It is so wonderful to allow the Holy Spirit to direct us with His still small voice and use us if we are listening. Luke 11:13 says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." Let's be sure to ask for the Holy Spirit to fill us every day so we can be led by Him and be a blessing to those around us!

Thank you for what you do for AWA. Your gifts – and your prayers – enable AWA missionaries to be a blessing and to make a lasting difference in people's lives. ❖

ABOUT THE WRITER



Norman and Nancy Hansen are missionaries at heart. During his college years Norman served as a student missionary to the Marshall

Islands and later spent 13 years serving Adventist World Radio in Costa Rica and Guam. Nancy was born in Nicaragua to missionary parents. The Hansens have three teenage children – Andrew, Steven, and Melanie – and after a brief time away from the country because of political unrest, the family recently returned to their post of duty to minister to the people of Nicaragua through temporal and spiritual means.





Adventist World Aviation (AWA) is known for our missionary airbases in Guyana, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Canada, and Alaska. But many people don't realize that AWA is actively engaged in homeland missionary work as well.

Following Hurricane Florence, many homes and businesses in the New Bern area of North Carolina suffered from severe flooding. Hearing about the many people

who were displaced into shelters and the difficulty those shelters experienced getting vital supplies of food and simple necessities, Pastor David Graham and the Seventh-day Adventist church community in Asheville, North Carolina stepped up to help. The church decided to purchase more than \$1,000 of food and supplies to be delivered to New Bern.

The dilemma they faced was how they would get the donated supplies and food to the people in New Bern.

Many roads remained flooded or were closed due to damage. This is when they contacted Adventist World Aviation to partner in the food-delivery effort.

In the coordinated effort, the Asheville Adventist community ordered the food and supplies online to be picked up in Raleigh. AWA staff went to Raleigh to pick up the order and drove it back to the AWA hanger at the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield, North Carolina.

On September 20, 2018, two airplanes were filled to capacity with as much food, water, and cleaning supplies as they could hold. The two planes were flown down to Coastal Regional Airport in New Bern.

The local Pathfinder club members met the planes at the airport with a truck and trailer to pick up the supplies. From the airport, the Pathfinders took the donations to the final destination at the homeless shelter.

This is one small example of how God's work is accomplished when people from different communities communicate and work together for the greater good. When you give to AWA, you're helping people in need – both at home and abroad! ♦



In Remembrance



Our dear brother and friend of AWA, Glen Ferguson, lost his life partner, Beverly Ferguson, who passed away on November 1, 2018. We grieve with him and his family and remember them in our thoughts and prayers. A registered nurse by trade, Beverly was actively involved in missions and women's ministries at her local church and was also a volunteer with Wycliffe Bible Translators to Brazil. Glen has served

for years with the International Association of Missionary Aviation (IAMA), an organization comprised of individuals, schools, and ministries that seek to encourage a spirit of collaboration and cooperation as they serve Christ around the globe. As Christians, we look forward to the day when Jesus will reunite loved ones together in the Kingdom that He is preparing for us. We take comfort in these words: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14).

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Workers disassemble the Pathfinder plane for deployment to the Philippines.



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