



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

# *Airways*

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2019

AWA REACHING OUT  
TO COMMUNITIES...





#### PUBLISHER

Adventist World Aviation  
*Airways is available free of charge*

#### PRESIDENT/CEO

Ric Swaningson  
President@FlyAWA.org

#### LAYOUT/DESIGN & PRINTING

Sutherland Printing,  
Montezuma, Iowa

#### EDITOR

Sabrina Westerman

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Chapman, Chairman  
Ric Swaningson, Secretary  
Lloyd Claycomb  
Donald Corkum  
Dennis Dahl, DDS  
Erik VanDenburgh

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/CANADA

Donald Corkum, Chairman  
Richard Habenicht, Secretary  
Betty Haas  
Ric Swaningson

#### CONTACT

Send all donations, inquiries, or change of address notices to:

Adventist World Aviation  
3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
Phone: (414) 226-5195  
E-mail: [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org)  
Website: [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org)

#### IN CANADA

Please send donations to:  
AWA Canada  
302-2237 Leckie Road  
Kelowna, BC V1X 6Y5  
BN 84364 2166 RR0001

#### 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.

## PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

### *Make A Difference To One Person!*

How can we impact the lives of those around us - and what about those who are even farther away than that? If I help only those I see or know and ignore the fact that there are human beings suffering in conditions that most would not subject their pets to, does it really matter? Does that aloof sense of complacency ever change? Am I my brother's keeper and who is my brother?

#### Genesis 4:9

*states, "And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"*

Most people in affluent countries spend time socializing in places where they can share interactions with others who also are seeking some sense of belonging. Emptiness fills crowded rooms with trivial conversations while the forgotten people of the most remote areas of the world live without hope of their lives ever changing. Who can offer them hope, after all?

This reminds me of the story of a boy that was on a beach laden with starfish. There were thousands of them washed up on shore! The lad was carefully picking them up and throwing them into the waves. A particularly grouchy person who had been watching the boy finally said, "Why are you wasting your time throwing starfish back into the water? Do you really think you can make a difference when there are so many?!" The boy said, "Sure, I just made a difference to this one!" With that he threw the starfish back into the ocean.

AWA missionaries work to help individuals in a similar way - one at a time. They see people everyday struggling to provide for their families; unable to find work, unable to provide food. They see people who are living in homes that are often far too tiny for the number of people living in them. Does one life really matter? Does a sack of flour or a pair of



shoes really mean something? It does to the people that AWA seeks to help. We are there for the one person who hears that Jesus loves them, the one person who is medevaced to a hospital for medical treatment, and the one person who is shown how to care for a sibling or infant child.

### **Matthew 25:35**

*states, "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:"*

If we understand that helping our brother and sister is the "endgame", then we would get it done. Jesus is coming again. The signs of the times are all around us. Many people look to Matthew 24 and say, "Look at all the signs of Jesus' coming!" Yes, there are signs all around us. However, it is not signs that will usher in His second coming. Rather it is decisions. Think of it this way for every "one" we help heal and lead to the foot of the cross another sign will transpire. It is souls won for His kingdom that usher in end time events - not the other way around! We have a mission to fulfill to those in need. It is an awesome privilege to partner in service together.

### **Galatians 6:2**

*states, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*

Let us go to work to reach our brothers and sisters, not only locally, but also in communities around the world.

*Pastor Ric Swaningson,*  
President/CEO



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2** Make A Difference To One Person!  
*by Pastor Ric Swaningson*
- 4** The Flight Plan  
*by Jenna Volkwyn*
- 6** A Second Chance  
*by Nancy Hansen*
- 8** Life Out of the Ordinary  
*For A Teenage Missionary*  
*by Melanie Hansen*
- 10** Community Meetings Plant  
Seed of the Gospel  
*by Laura LaBore*
- 12** Bamboo Hut Church Sparks Community  
*by Edgar Espinosa*
- 14** "Bite Sized" Donations
- 16** The Global Community  
*by Jud Wickwire*
- 18** One Joyous Weekend  
*by Monique Wilkersons*
- 20** Helpful 'Foreigners' Become Friends  
*by Joanne Lea*
- 22** Community in the First Nations  
of North America  
*by Ryan Kennedy*

## ABOUT THE COVER



Children ready to ride to the AWA- Palawan Project! Currently, we are in desperate need of funds to complete the Palawan Mission Base runway in the Philippines. \$300 will buy one truck load of runway fill and aggregate. Thank you for your support!



# THE FLIGHT PLAN



By Jenna Volkwyn

I think AWA's community is distinct in many ways. Some of us are pilots, some mechanics, accountants, stay-at-home moms, teachers... the list goes on. What unites us all is that we care for the unreached and forgotten people of the earth. We want to help those who are marginalized, who do not even have the means to get to the hospital to receive the care they desperately need. We are bound together by our desire to do better in this world, through Christ's perfect love.

Martin Luther King Jr. stated that "life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are [we] doing for others?'" With all of us tied together, we are becoming what one individual could never be on their own - a community with deep knowledge, skill, love, and compassion to help those who are unable to help themselves.

We fly with you, because of you, and because of what our Heavenly Father has done for each of us.

Thank you, dear friends, for making AWA possible.

## CONNECT WITH AWA!

Have you had a chance to connect with AWA on social media to see the most up-to-date stories, photos, and videos from all of our mission bases? Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/flyawa.org/](http://www.facebook.com/flyawa.org/) Or on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/adventistworldaviation/](http://www.instagram.com/adventistworldaviation/)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel at AWA - Adventist World Aviation to see our latest videos. <https://www.youtube.com/AWASDA>







Do you speak Spanish? Join us on our new AWA in Spanish page!

¿Hablas español? ¡Síguenos en nuestra nueva pagina: Adventist World Aviation en Español!  
<https://www.facebook.com/AWASpanish>

## AMAZON SMILE

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Adventist World Aviation when you do your shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3242404](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3242404). Signing up is easy. Enter AWA as the charity of your choice and you are good to go each time you place an order. Same Amazon, same products and prices, a new way to support AWA!

## EASY WAYS TO DONATE

Visit [www.flyawa.org/donate/](http://www.flyawa.org/donate/) to quickly and securely donate to AWA or AWA Canada! Call us at 414.226.5195 to connect with us during regular office hours. Or, mail the enclosed envelope with your tax-deductible donation.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

AWA is so thankful to be part of the Carolina Conference Camp Meeting again! It takes place from May 26th to June 1st at Lake Junaluska, NC. We will be a part of the Tuesday Evening Program, so keep an eye out for that! Also, say hi at our booth and learn about what is happening with each of our projects!

AWA will be set up at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Fly-In & Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin from July 22 to 28. With over 500,000 people attending, AWA hopes share our amazing mission stories from around the globe. Please come out in support!

AWA will have our booth set up at BC Camp Meeting from July 26 to August 3, we look forward to seeing you at Camp Hope!



Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) International Convention is taking place in Louisville, Kentucky from July 31 to August 3 and AWA will be there. We are excited to reconnect with this amazing community!

The International Pathfinder Camporee is taking place this year in Oshkosh, Wisconsin from August 12 to 17 and AWA is so excited to be a part of it. AWA is partnering with Andrews University to offer the Aviation Honor!



*Ricardo the day after he tried to end his life.*

# A SECOND CHANCE

*By Nancy Hansen*

When we first met Ricardo, we knew him as a happy person because he was always laughing, making jokes and surrounded by friends. Last year, a mission group from Canada came to build a footbridge in the village of Tronquera at our Nicaraguan air base and Ricardo was among those who volunteered his help every day for several days, working tirelessly.

He seemed so defeated and in great pain. I quickly offered him a large dose of charcoal powder diluted in juice and told him to drink more throughout the day. I assured him that God had a great plan for him and we prayed together. He cried as he listened to the Bible passage and thanked me for caring. I asked him why he didn't want to live and he said he had many problems and couldn't cope any

---

**I read to him Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (KJV)**

---

One day, we learned that Ricardo had tried to end his life the previous night. Thankfully his family had found him unconscious in his room where he lived alone and had been able to keep him alive. I rushed to visit him, carrying with me some charcoal powder, juice, and my Bible. I found him lying in the living room of his Grandma's home where he had been moved.

more. I told him that we wanted him back at the mission as soon as possible, for his help was crucial and God had good plans for him, so he needed to rest and get better soon. He promised me he would never try to harm himself again.





*Ricardo and Nancy proudly displaying the gas stove he bought with money he earned while working hard at the AWA mission in Nicaragua.*

The next day, early in the morning, we were very surprised to see him at the mission airbase ready to work. He said he was feeling better and his stomach didn't hurt as much. I fed him breakfast since he hadn't eaten anything for several days and told him to take it easy but he really wanted to work again. He continued coming to the mission to get odd jobs to make some money and I invited him to begin Bible studies if he wanted. He agreed and came faithfully for several weeks. After a while, however, he stopped attending the Bible studies.



*Ricardo with Norman & Nancy.*

Thankfully, this year since we returned to Nicaragua, he has been coming faithfully to church almost every week. We don't push him, but only pray for him to be able to surrender his life completely to Jesus. He continues to struggle at times but still comes to church and seems

much happier than he did before. Every week he learns more about the love of Jesus and His power to overcome any temptation and to give us a new life.

Recently, on Sabbath afternoons we began showing some evangelistic videos by Doug Batchelor that are in Spanish and he hasn't missed one yet. We know God is not done working in Ricardo's life and we are eager to see the plans He has in store for him.

Please pray for Ricardo and for many others in our village who struggle with overwhelming challenges. We know that Jesus has a wonderful plan for them and loves each and every one of them so much!

Thank you for being part of our team work with Adventist World Aviation in Nicaragua and for supporting us so we can continue bringing the good news of Jesus to those who have not received Him yet.



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Nancy Hansen is the wife of Norman Hansen, the Pilot and Project Manager for AWA Nicaragua, and mother to Melanie, Steven, and Andrew.



# Life Out of the Ordinary

## FOR A TEENAGE MISSIONARY

By Melanie Hansen

“Jump Melanie, jump!” called a little Nicaraguan girl, excitedly. I jumped from the pond’s bank and landed with a splash into the cool, welcoming water. Almost every week, children from the local village swims with me and my brothers. We are blessed that the mission house is located directly beside a pond where we have had countless seaweed wars and kayak races with the Miskito children. It is at the pond that we met many of them and have even learned a few words of Miskito, which is the local dialect.

When I first arrived about a year and a half ago, everything was very different from what I was used to and I could not help but feel somewhat out of place. However, over time the culture shock wore off and I started to make a few friends from the village while improving my Spanish and learning some Miskito. This year I have started teaching the children’s Sabbath school in the village church with the help of my mom. It always brings me so much joy to sing songs with them in Sabbath

school or play my violin with my brother for church service. The emergency flights that my dad does are essential to our mission and save many lives, but community outreach is also an important part of what we do.

For school, I join online high school classes through distance learning. Although the slow Internet is a challenge, I am thankful that it works well enough for me to attend classes. Recently our internet stopped working for almost two weeks, and our

---

*At the swimming pond*







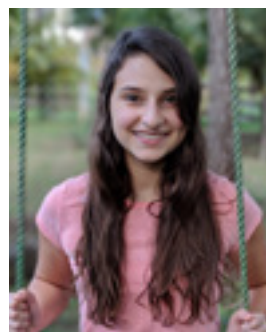
whole family worked together to set up satellite internet. Even with academics, our family works as a team to help each other succeed.

I feel so blessed to be able to be a missionary along with my family here in Nicaragua. I know that there are many teens my age who would love to be overseas missionaries, but do not have the opportunity. Ever since I was very little, I begged my parents if we could “go be missionaries” and tell others about Jesus and his unfailing love. Now this dream has come true. No question though, from owning a pet monkey, to battling with rats in our pantry, to kayaking down a jungle river, I recognize that my life is definitely out of the ordinary.

*Melanie and her brother playing their violins for church*



I especially enjoy when mission groups come. Last year a group of students arrived from the Okanagan Christian High School to build a bridge and conduct a Vacation Bible School for the local children. I loved seeing the impact that they made in the village and was excited to be a part of it. It has been very inspiring to meet other missionaries and their families who are also passionate for Christ and seek to hasten His second coming. I realize that we are all a team, working with one common goal in mind: to spread the love of Christ and save lives, both physically and spiritually. What I failed to realize when I was younger is that we are all called to be missionaries wherever we may be and can make a difference in the lives of others. For some, their mission field may be on the other side of the world, and for others, it may be in their own backyard. However, both are equally important in God’s plan. As Christians, we are a community—a community of missionaries.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melanie Hansen is the daughter of Norman and Nancy Hansen, who manage AWA’s Nicaraguan Project.



*Crafts for the Kids*

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS PLANT SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL

*By Laura LaBore*

**T**he old woman had a snaggletooth smile, but her smile was large and genuine, coming from the heart. She was so cute, just singing her heart out with full joy. One night, she sat next to me during the evangelistic meetings. They were singing children's songs with hand motions, and she was fully engaged in learning all the hand motions.

At one point in the song, it came to the word "rainbow" where you were to arch your arms sideways in a rainbow-arch. This she did with FULL gusto, nearly knocking me back as I reacted to her flailing arms. I quickly learned to lean back when the "rainbow" word came!

Most of the time during the meetings, I presented the health talks, and Mark and Linda Haddad conducted meetings. Mark and Linda are two short-term volunteers that are here for a month to help us, and we have been so grateful for their help. Mark jumped right in when asked to be the speaker for the meetings, and Linda was a natural at working with the kids every night. We spent large portions of our day, every day, getting ready for the meetings.

One evening I sat outside speaking with a Bible worker, Shem. Sent to the area a month before the meetings, he talked to me about his work with the people, including the poverty and the needs of the people in that area. Shem and his wife, who is a social



*Mark Haddad preaching for the meetings*



*Linda Haddad singing with the kids*





*Baptisms at the River*



*Successful meetings at the Sawmill Church*



*Laura LaBore giving a health talk*

worker, decided to quit their jobs so they could be a Bible worker with the people! He said “Even if we don’t get many baptisms, that’s ok. Many seeds have been planted, and it’s just the beginning. I will stay and work with them all.”

Many children are too poor to travel the distance to go to school. When we were doing crafts with them, some of them did not know how to use scissors. They loved Linda’s program for the children, full of stories with pictures, crafts, memory verses, and singing. Their faces lit up when she told the stories with puppets. Because the children speak the language of Tagalog, we had to translate all of our presentations, which meant shortening all the information in half. This was difficult to do, especially for Mark, who had to pack a lot of information into 14 days, but he did a terrific job.

As is the custom here, they hooked up the microphones to megaphones to pipe it all into the village. This would be not only illegal in the States, but also frowned upon, but not here. At one set of meetings a few years back, a man was too hesitant to attend the meetings, but he would sit in his hut, nightly, listening to the meeting that boomed through his bamboo walls. Convicted of the truth, he attended on the last day to stand up for baptism.

While the meetings were going on, Bill was busy driving or taking public transportation to the nearest city of Puerto Princesa, or flying to Manila. He is working on getting the paperwork processed for building the runway and shipping the airplane. We were all busy from daybreak until way past sundown, trying to get everything done! We even prepared for a building team to come from Canada to help build our church. In the end, it was all worth it! We are praying for everyone that has been coming, and praying that the seeds planted will continue to grow. We are happy that Shem and the others at the small church will be



working with the people in the days to come. Your prayers and support make this possible. Thank you!

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Laura LaBore is a pilot and the wife of Project Manager Bill LaBore at the AWA-Palawan project.





*A woman cooking at Ben and Gala's home*

# Bamboo Hut Church Sparks Community

*By Edgar Espinosa*

---

**“Would you please come and worship with us?”**

---

came the request from the man, Mr. Bello. The Bello family lives in a remote area called Sawmill, and traveling to a church was difficult. There were a couple of options. One, his family would have to first walk 45 minutes to the highway, little-ones in-tow. Once they reached the highway, they would have to catch a bus. Even though inexpensive, a bus is usually unaffordable for the family, because they barely survived on farming rice. The other option was to hook up their water buffalo to a sled for the family to ride on to travel to church. Unfortunately, water buffalo walk slowly and once at their destination, their skin must be kept wet or they will die. Unlike parking a vehicle, finding a wet place to park a water

buffalo can be a challenge, especially in the dry season. However, the Bello family would go to church when possible, even though it was not easy.



*Gala and Ben*





*The Children's Sabbath School in the Bamboo Hut*

In the same area, there was one older couple, Ben and Gala, which also wanted to go to church. Unfortunately, it was even harder for them to make the journey, but now, Mr. Bello was asking that we go and worship occasionally with them all in Ben and Gala's small hut. My family and I were delighted!

At the time, we were also involved in holding morning church services in a prison once a month. Then, in the afternoon, we would worship with the two families in Bello's hut. The hut was small, but after a while, Ben and Gala were able to build a hut that was a bit bigger, so we started gathering there instead.

Not only did our family go once a month, but we also started taking our own, small church with us when we went, which included 1-2 other families. Later, the LaBore family came as missionaries, and they joined us. The mission truck was now much fuller as it bounced along the dusty dirt roads in the dry season. In the wet season, the dust quickly turns to slippery mud and when the 4x4 was broken, going there was impossible. Still, God blessed, and we had more families joining us every Sabbath! We had so many that we were spilling out of the hut and onto the front porch!



*The New Church at Sawmill*

About that time, a generous donation came in to help build a small church at Sawmill and the local conference took up an offering to pay for the roof and the floor. The new church then requested that we hold evangelistic meetings so that they could reach their neighbors. Before the meetings started, two Bible Workers stayed in the community, visiting the people and giving Bible studies to those who wanted them. All of the people living in that area are very poor. Some of the children are unable to go to school, and most must farm to survive. One man was so grateful for the generosity from us and the Bible Workers that he became curious and wanted to know more, so started attending every night. On the final day, we walked to the river and baptized twelve people. This is just the beginning! Seeds are being planted all over.

Our church near the Palawan project, which is also growing, still goes out once a month to worship with the Sawmill church, only now, the truck is full-to-the-brim with people! It amazes us, as we look around, and remember the humble beginnings of meeting in a small hut. We are grateful for the desire of the Bello family and Ben and Gala to reach out to their neighbors, and for the other families that have caught the vision to carry on the work of the Lord. It is hard to believe, when you look around, that all this started with just two families meeting in a bamboo hut.



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Edgar Espinosa has managed AWA's Palawan project for more than 10 years and along with his wife, Raylene, and their two children, are an integral part of the project.



***AWA has many places where your donation would specifically help a project, plane, or missionary working in the field. Please consider these “Bite Sized” opportunities to help.***

**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 use for transportation

**A \$100 GIFT CAN PROVIDE:**

- Aviation fuel for a one-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
- 55 gallon barrel of humanitarian supplies

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

- Fuel pump for single engine plane
- iPad for plane pilot to use to navigate the plane
- Box of medical supplies

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

- A 3rd-row fold down seat for evacuations
- A portable gas-powered generator
- Aircraft battery

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

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







*Grading the access road in the Philippines*

# THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

*By Jud Wickwire*

It is hard to know where to start when writing about AWA projects. Today is my first day in the Philippines and I am sitting up on the second-floor deck enjoying the afternoon breeze under a cloudless sky. Occasionally the dust swirls up from the equipment that is putting the final touches on the access road into the airbase from the main road. The large roller/packer shakes the house as it approaches the front door. During the dry season like now, the old road was passable and the clouds of dust are just an annoyance. However, once the monsoon season struck it quickly turned into an impassable quagmire.

It has taken over 100 dump truck loads of rock and gravel to give the road a solid base that will withstand the ravages of the coming rains. This road is another major milestone for the airbase here in the Philippines. While a necessity, this was just the first step, now we can move forward with the main event, which is the runway!

Bill LaBore and I sat with the contractor yesterday to review the engineering drawings and the specifications of the runway surface, side setbacks and approaches. The typical runway is built differently from a road. The surface of the runway is wider, but it also has less crown or slope in the center, as airplanes really do not like the side slopes normally built to allow the rain to run off the road. The sharply carved out ditches will also be left out in favor of a gentle swale in the remote chance of an aircraft running off the side. The gravel base can also be a little bit thinner as the airplanes we use weigh much less than a car or truck.

Progress looks different on each AWA project. Sometimes it is something you cannot see, like in Nicaragua. Letters of permission and exemption are also major milestones that will save money and enable us to provide even more service to the Nicaraguan people that need it the most. Much prayer, effort,







The C-FWOH Float plane while worked on at Wings of Hope

and determination have come before these meetings to lay the groundwork to these amazing resolutions. Permission to bring in the Cessna 182, countrywide operating permission, and exemptions from landing fees have finally all come through!

In Northern Ontario it has been a hard winter, it still is actually, and the new wing covers are still needed on the airplane, but the conditions are improving, and plans are being made to fly again with health and lifestyle programs in several Indigenous communities in the North. Operational testing of the Cessna 185 floatplane at Wings of Hope for this project is very close and everyone is looking forward to having this airplane in Sioux Lookout soon as the primary aircraft.

Plans for the new project in Uganda are moving forward too. At the upcoming Pathfinder Camporee this summer, we are looking forward to raising the support needed to convert the Cessna 182 (Pathfinder Plane) to a diesel engine, allowing it to use the much less expensive jet fuel. This is a major undertaking, with a great deal of work ahead, but it will be exciting to see it through to reality.



Spring is coming soon to Northern Ontario

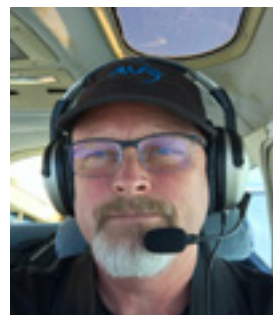


The Cessna 182 to be converted for Uganda

### **John F. Kennedy said this on September**

**12, 1962:** *"There is no strife, no prejudice, no national conflict in outer space as yet. Its hazards are hostile to us all. Its conquest deserves the best of all mankind, and its opportunity for peaceful cooperation many never come again. But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic?... We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win..."*

"Not because they are easy, but because they are hard", is a key phrase in JFK's inspirational address about space exploration. Hard is the very nature of what we all at AWA do. If it were easy, that would probably be the first indication that we are not really needed. JFK is speaking about the human spirit and the drive to achieve something great for mankind. Imagine how much greater we can do in the service of humanity for the Kingdom of God!



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Jud Wickwire is the Vice President of Operations for AWA.



*Singing at the White Creek baptisms.*

# ONE JOYOUS WEEKEND

*By Monique Wilkerson*

Often people define a community as a group of people living in the same area with a common characteristic, or sharing similar interests or beliefs. In the Guyana interior, and for many Amerindians, community weaves itself into the heart and soul of life, and defines their worldview of who they are and what they value in life. Understanding the community's worldview is crucial as we share the gospel message, as it directly influences if they receive or reject the gospel message. One characteristic of acceptance into a part of a community is experiencing a mutual trust in each other, with each side looking after the other's well-being both physical and spiritual. Bruce and I feel accepted over the last four years as a part of the Mabaruma community, and more recently, the sub-community of Hobo Hill, which is by the airstrip. This is our community "home", where we have planted roots, grown friends, shared joys and sadness.

This sense of community and acceptance was clear and evident in our hearts one joyous weekend in March. From March 8-10<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Richard Averett James, spent the weekend with us to celebrate and participate in the fellowship and programs we have within our community. On Friday, members of the Mabaruma Church joined us in welcoming the Pastor and stayed for early dinner. On Sabbath morning, the Wauna Church came to services in three busloads, boosting our

attendance to over 81 attendees! In our Worship Service, we had the added blessing of dedicating five children for the Lord.

Later Sabbath afternoon, we all took the trek to White Creek for two baptisms initially. The two candidates were Joel, a 19-year old and 2nd-year medical student, and Lloyd, a 30-year old linguist. Before Pastor James read the baptismal vows, he asked if anyone else was ready to take the stand for Jesus. To our surprise, 15-year old Shemeza unassumingly raised her hand and confirmed her desire to be a member of the family of God. Each baptism was







*Jim Craik with Pastor Richard Averett James and Joel Pritchard*

a glorious event, as the audience consisted of members from the Wauna Church, Mabaruma Church, Barabina Church, and our own Wings Learning Center. We sang, “*I Surrender All*” and “*It Is Good to Be a Christian*” as they were being baptized.

When they finished baptizing the three candidates, the Pastor made a short appeal for others willing to take the stand for the Lord. Nobody responded, so he said that he would conclude with a prayer. At that moment, someone raised a hand. It was Jewel, a 15-year old young woman, who has been an active teen in many of our Learning Center activities. Jewel is one of our “adopted” daughters in the Hobo community.

She is always up-front reading mission stories and presenting special music, helping with children’s Sabbath School and



leading in singing songs when we conduct outreach activities at the Venezuelan Warao camp. Though working with us a while, she has been undecided on baptism, but decided then to finally commit herself to the Lord. That Sabbath afternoon, she walked glowingly into the creek to be baptized into the community of God. Our hearts were full, and our eyes teared, for we know this young woman is ready to be used for the glory of the Lord.

For Sabbath vespers Pastor James, along with Jim Craik, our relief pilot from Montana, visited the Thomas Hill Church for the closing service, making friends in the community. What a high Sabbath we had! The next morning, Pastor James visited the Barabina Church for early morning worship, making even more friends in the community. After lunch, we loaded the truck and visited the Venezuelan Warao camp. There, we distributed cabbages, sang songs, and taught basic English to the people that were present. Many in the community of Warao men, women, and children know us and consider us friends they have made in Guyana.

The sense of community was evident that weekend when all of God’s people came together in unity to introduce the humble and personable Pastor James, to the work that his flock in Mabaruma is actively pursuing. From Mabaruma, Wauna, Thomas Hill, Barabina, and finally the Wings’ Learning Center, our community is laboring to bring souls to a personal relationship with Christ.

---

**IN PSALM 133:1 IT STATES, “HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY!”**

---



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Monique Wilkerson and her husband Bruce are the project management team for AWA’s Guyana Project.



# HELPFUL 'FOREIGNERS' BECOME FRIENDS

By Joanne Lea

“Nasara! Nasara!” The children of the African country of Chad would shout, pointing their fingers at the foreign missionaries. When we worked in Chad, we became accustomed to being called that, but it did not help you feel at home there. While serving as a missionary in South Korea, I became familiar with the terms they would use to describe us: “Miguk!” (American) or “Wehgukin!” (Foreigner). Locals have connections and family ties (in fact in many places the whole village may be related to each other), but as missionaries, we are living in places very unlike our homes and the cultures we grew up with in South Africa. I remember the day I was taking an elevator to my apartment, when someone audibly gasped in shock at the sight of me, a foreigner, in their apartment building, even though I had been living there for months.

What makes us belong in the village or feel part of the local community, when as a missionary you are distinctly different? We walk through the marketplace, greeting smiling faces as we purchase their produce. We recognize the familiar voice of the village drunk as he stumbles on his way home, singing as he goes. We learn to cook the way the locals cook. One way to start belonging is to help. We help by flying emergency cases to the capital to save the lives of villagers. We help transport bodies of the deceased, shedding tears and praying with the people when we realize the loss these loved ones have just experienced. We can all help in many ways in order to belong to a community, including the following experience we had in Guyana.

Most nights, the village generator roars to life at 5 pm, and the lights come on as the jungle village of Mabaruma receives its ‘current’ as they call electricity. On this night, I head down to the little one-room church building at Thomas Hill where the women help me set up for our sewing class. We had been working on various sewing projects, including little heart-shaped pillows as gifts for local children. Tonight, one woman asks me to make a necktie for her son to wear as part of his school uniform, which he needs the next day. I am glad I brought the iron because I will need it to press the tie flat.







A few weeks earlier, I had plugged in the same iron to press a seam, and we were suddenly in darkness! The iron had been too much of a load and had caused a blackout at the church, requiring us to cancel the sewing class. We had asked if we needed to call an electrician to find the problem, as this was not the first time we had had electrical issues at the church. The electrician had come and assessed the problem, but he was a busy man and could not repair it at the time. Time went by, and we had had to cancel sewing classes again because we had had no ‘current’.

Since the church building is on the land of a Guyanese family, the wiring runs through the fuse box in their house before it reaches the main pole for the church. We had tried to be patient, but finally, I asked the family if they would let Darren see if he could repair it. They had been hesitant on previous occasions but they eventually agreed. Darren had taken his multimeter and gone to investigate. One look at the burnt-out electrical box explained why there had been problems. In this part of the world, in order to cut costs, instead of using resettable breakers, they use thin wires as makeshift fuses. The thicker the wire, the more current

can pass through it. Darren had to rewire everything and fixed some other electrical issues as well, including installing another box for the family and fixing the light switch in their living room.

The family was grateful for the help, and this leads to helping in even more ways! The father of the family had also been experiencing some health issues, and had needed to take insulin. His daughter asked me to help him administer the insulin shot because he was uncomfortable doing it himself. I was also able to give him some health material with guidelines on how to lower his blood sugar naturally. We were glad we were able to help.

The bonds of love that exist between members create a community. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Christ, the greatest missionary, left the comforts of Heaven to reach out to a dying world that called Him cruel names and even crucified Him. Yet, He connected Himself inseparably with us; He calls us ‘brothers and sisters’ to Himself. Christ puts that love in our hearts, and the gospel compels us to go to these corners of the earth to help these communities, teaching them of the love of God.

Now, there is no blackout when we plug in the iron. We help the mother complete the necktie for her son to wear to school the next day. We laugh and chat as we sew. Before we say our goodbyes to one another, one of the middle-aged women, a teacher, turns to me and says, sincerely,

---

“I’M SO GLAD I’VE LEARNED TO SEW.  
THIS MEANS SO MUCH TO ME!”

---



*Sewing machines recently donated for our classes in Guyana.*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joanne Lea is the wife of Darren and mother to Rosanna, and Christie Lea. They are stationed at the AWA-Guyana Project.



*Arial shot of the community near the airport.*

# COMMUNITY IN THE FIRST NATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

*By Ryan Kennedy*

**T**he word community has such a strong tie to the individuals as in the First Nations or Aboriginal peoples of North America. Unfortunately, due to the incredible abuse and torture suffered as a people through colonization and the residential school system, there has been an immensity of multi-generational damage done. This has sadly weakened, torn, and broken up many of these strong ties of community principles, which are necessary for a healthy life.

Rooted deep in the First Nations peoples are the Seven Sacred Teachings. These teachings represent the needs for community survival and were once the basis of moral direction and life for families before colonization. These teachings are Respect, Love, Truth, Bravery, Wisdom, Generosity, and Humility. These principles are a direct mirror of the principals behind the Commandments of God given to us in The Word. For a people to have

knowledge such as this, prior to the written Word of God, is nothing short of God's amazing grace!

Recently, Janet and I had the privilege of organizing a group of people to walk around Sioux Lookout, sharing our love of popcorn by giving out bags of popcorn along with encouraging tracts to people on the streets. As







*Janet teaching a class on diabetes this past year.*



*The shelter where many people stay in subzero temperatures, which creates for some, as much community as they know.*

we shared and talked with people, there was one young man, who we will call Vic, who came up and began talking. It did not take long to notice that Vic was in need of someone just to listen to him. He talked about where he was from, his history and his difficulties during his struggles to turn his life around. He suddenly stated, “I just don’t know how, but I want to get up on my feet. I’m done with this.”

Looking into Vic’s eyes, I could see that beyond the hurt and pain. There was desperation and sincerity there, and he felt alone and hopeless! Needing to correct some habits in his life, Vic had tried to make the changes in the past, but without the community support of family, loved ones, and positive friends. Unfortunately, Vic still felt like there was no one who could surround him with the support and encouragement that he needed to stop. He reached into his jacket and pulled out a little wooden cross. “I know there’s help up there,” he said pointing to the sky.

---

### **“WOULD YOU MIND IF WE PRAYED TOGETHER TO THE CREATOR?”**

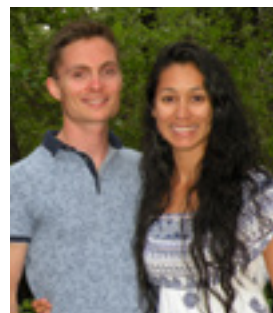
---

I asked. We knelt down on the sidewalk together and prayed. We asked the God of Heaven, our Creator, for direction and comfort in Vic’s life, that he would be able to stand up amid the darkness, reaching out for our Father’s hand who has promised never to leave us! Finishing the prayer, Vic said, “I really need some help, but I

feel lighter now”. Telling us where he was staying, we made plans to meet again, to continue the process of healing and finding aid for him.

When separated from people due to circumstances in life, there is a part of us which longs for connection, acceptance, and love from those who are no longer around us. The longing for community is even stronger when those who find themselves in situations like Vic do not have communion with our Father in Heaven! This lack of a foundation in the community of God, presents an abundance of symptoms such as depression, anxiety, addiction to alcohol, violence, and even death. God created us to be one with God, and to support each other through community living. As missionaries and the children of God, we need to introduce people to the community of God, be a friend, and give comfort to those who are struggling around us!

Join us every day in this mission to the community in your area!




---

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Ryan and Janet Kennedy serve at the AWA-Northern Ontario Project.

# CALLING ALL PATHFINDERS

Every 5 years, 50,000 Pathfinders from around the world come to play, share, learn, and worship together at the Pathfinder Camporee held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It is happening again this year in August and AWA will be there.



AWA is partnering with Andrews University to offer the Aviation Honor to Camporee Pathfinders for the first time. To earn this honor, you must have completed the Airplane Modeling Honor as a prerequisite. We are asking our Airways readers to share this information with the Pathfinder groups in their communities.

In addition to offering the Aviation Honor, AWA will have our Pathfinder Plane for Uganda project featured at Camporee. We have been chosen to receive part of the Camporee offering to support the Pathfinder Plane for Uganda. Gerald & Susan Wade donated our newest Pathfinder plane, N9579E, to AWA in December



2017. Ryan and Janet Kennedy are currently using this plane in Sioux Lookout, Ontario to provide service to the First Nations communities in that region.

This Cessna 182R plane is scheduled for a complete overhaul including replacing the gasoline engine with a diesel engine. The engine needs to be swapped to make the plane more efficient to fly in Uganda. Aviation gasoline is very expensive and harder to obtain, while jet fuel is more economical and readily available in African countries. The interior of the plane has to be updated so it can be used to fly medical patients if needed. The overhaul work is expected to begin in the fall of 2019.

To raise funds to cover the cost of updating the plane, AWA is currently accepting donations for this project. As our way to honor the donors who are supporting this project, we will print the names on the Uganda Pathfinder plane. We will include names of Individuals donating \$1,000 or more, Pathfinder Clubs donating \$2,000 or more and Churches or Companies donating \$5,000 or more. To donate go to [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org)



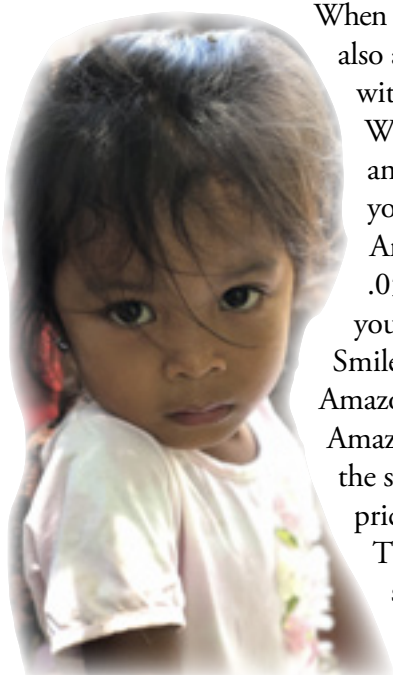


# Keeping Our AWA Community Alive

By Doreen Stocker

**A**WA is our own community of pilots, missionaries, and our support staff at home. Your donations are what AWA rely upon to keep this community going. Though we do accept donations on our website, through the mail, and over the phone, there are many other ways to donate as well. Did you know that that you can give to AWA just by selling or buying online? Did you know your employer might do matching donations to charities?

First, you can donate to AWA through eBay for Charity, which works directly with the PayPal Giving Fund to enable sellers to donate a portion of their sales and buyers to shop while supporting their favorite charity. PayPal Giving Fund is a registered non-profit that connects donors, businesses & charities in order to help charities raise new funds. Look for AWA WFH (Adventist World Aviation - Wings for Humanity), or you can search using our EIN #38-3242404.



When buying online, AWA is also a registered non-profit with Amazon Smile.

When you register and select AWA as your charity of choice, Amazon will donate .05% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase to AWA. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know, with the same products, same prices, and same services.

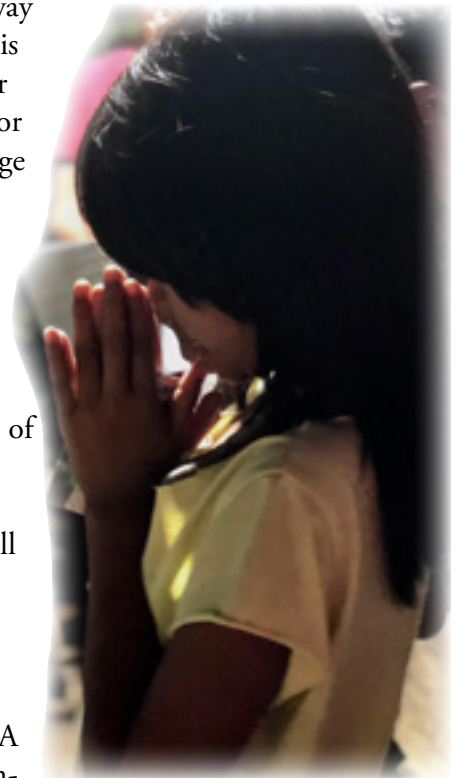
To get started, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Another, newer way to support AWA is through employer matching funds for charity. Many large corporations will match employee donations to charities. First, you will need to find out if your employer has one of these programs.

To enroll, you will need to submit AWA's EIN #38-3242404 so the company can confirm that AWA is a registered non-

profit. The list of companies is growing constantly, so make sure to check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable donations. Many dollars that these corporations have set aside for charities go unclaimed because their employees do not register.

Please continue to support our AWA community so that we can continue our humanitarian mission to communities around the world.



---

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doreen M. Stocker is the Development Director for Wings 4 Humanity/Adventist World Aviation.

# Community Involvement at *AWA Headquarters*

By Sharon Williams

**A**dventist World Aviation serves communities all over the world. In areas where transportation takes days to get from the village to the local hospital by truck or boat, AWA offers hope to the people living in these remote areas. AWA wants to make a difference in these communities that the rest of the world forgets.

On the other hand, helping those who are in our own neighborhood or community is equally valuable. AWA serves our local community in a number of ways.

Recently a high school student, Drew Applequist, came to AWA headquarters to job shadow our Director of Maintenance, Nick Nagy. Drew spent the day watching planes being worked on and learning about the challenges that can be experienced by mission pilots who don't always have a mechanic or parts that may be needed. We are happy to share with young people who have an interest in aviation.

Another way that we try to encourage young people is by offering Young Eagles flights (see [eaa.org](http://eaa.org)) here at AWA headquarters. We recently had a group of 16 Young Eagles along with their mothers and younger siblings from a local homeschool group come one afternoon to learn about aviation and experience what is usually their first time in a plane. When the children returned from their short flights in the Cessna 172 and Piper Comanche planes, it was clear from the expressions on their faces that the experience was one they will remember forever. It could even inspire them to a future in aviation. "It's a better way to get high," as AWA President, Ric Swaningson puts it.



*Local home-schoolers listen as Ric Swaningson talks about EAA's Young Eagle program*

As a member of our local Triangle East Chamber of Commerce, here in Smithfield, NC, AWA recently assisted with a flight for the Chamber president, Mike Mancuso, and Jeremy Bailey, Chamber videographer. They were needing to take aerial pictures for a huge community development project so they reached out to AWA to see if we could help.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated and the flight produced exactly what was needed in way of great pictures for the project plans.

AWA offers angel flights to individuals too sick to travel by car and when flooding produced isolated communities without food or water nearby in our own State, AWA assisted with flights to the disaster-affected areas with planes laden with much-needed supplies. AWA is active abroad and locally in our community to share the love of Jesus. We thank all of our neighbors, near and far, who help support the mission work of AWA. If you would like to partner with us we would love to hear from you.

---

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Sharon Williams is the Executive Administrative Assistant to Pastor Ric Swaningson, and an active member of the community around Smithfield, NC.



*Flight Planning with the local Chamber*



*Triangle East Chamber president, Mike Mancuso along with AWA staff at the Smithfield hanger*



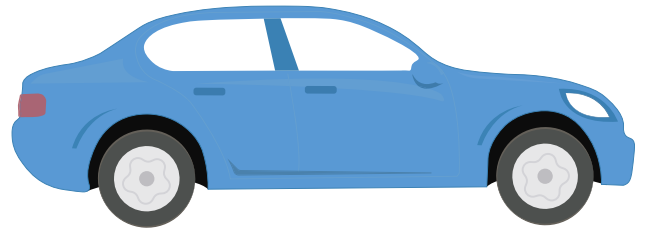


# Donate Your Vehicle to AWA

At AWA, we usually ask people to donate their planes to us. This time, we have a need for a reliable ground vehicle for use at our headquarters in Smithfield, NC and we need your help!

As we grow, we have more volunteers and AWA missionaries spending time at our headquarters to work on our aircraft, obtain training, and participate in AWA events. We have a great need here for a good reliable vehicle that our traveling workers can use while they are in the area. Renting a vehicle, especially for months at a time, is becoming increasingly expensive.

To cut down on costs, we are asking for a donation of a good reliable vehicle or cash donations towards the purchase and maintenance of a vehicle for this purpose. To make arrangements to donate a vehicle call 919-938-2920 or email [dd@flyawa.org](mailto:dd@flyawa.org). To make a cash donation to the vehicle fund go to [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org) and click on the donate button.





**Music and Customized Messaging**  
**For Your Callers To Hear While On Hold**

- Reduced Caller Frustration
- Callers Hear About Your Offering

Expert Script Writing      In-House Audio Studios

**Ask for Dan or Rich**

[www.onholdmarketinginc.com](http://www.onholdmarketinginc.com)    1-800-342-0098

*Serving the Nation Since 1989*





**Adventist World Aviation**  
3457 Swift Creek Road, Corp. 3  
Smithfield, NC 27577

**Change Service Requested**

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Montezuma, IA  
Permit No. 30

**We are grateful for your support of AWA planes!**



Visit Adventist World Aviation at  
**[www.FlyAWA.org](http://www.FlyAWA.org)** or call **1-888-477-8945** to donate!