



The Official Voice of Adventist World Aviation

# AIRWAYS

PREMIER ISSUE | FALL 2011

## ON EAGLES' WINGS

Taking the Gospel to Guyana

**NEW TEAM  
MEMBERS**



**FLIGHT  
SCHOOL**



**ALASKA  
UPDATES**



**CHANGE IS IN THE AIR: A NEW TEAM, A NEW OFFICE, A NEW MAGAZINE, AND MUCH MORE!**



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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

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## PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT:

# Change Is In The Air

**T**his has been a year of change for Adventist World Aviation. As the new president of AWA, I am learning its rich history, and am thrilled with the possibilities of how AWA will serve Christ through the changes being made.

God has used this ministry to help missionaries, medical professionals, church and school planters, and Bible workers, not to mention the tens of thousands of people in the remote areas they serve. AWA has carried out more than 2,000 medical evacuation flights, with more than 8 million miles flown. In addition, AWA has been able to help stop 35 major epidemics. Hundreds have been baptized for Jesus' kingdom.

## EMBRACING CHANGE

Change is part of life. Each day we see changes in the weather and changes in the seasons. We see changes in our families, especially as our children grow and develop. When a person accepts Jesus as their Savior, their life changes. Change can be a positive process, and it will be for AWA. Here are some of our positive changes:

First of all, I hope you are enjoying the new look of our new *AirWAYS* magazine. It takes the place of *FlightLog*, our previous newsletter. It is now being printed by Seminars Unlimited in Keene, Texas. We hope you continue to enjoy reading the reports and stories that come to us from our missionaries in the Philippines, Guyana, and Alaska.

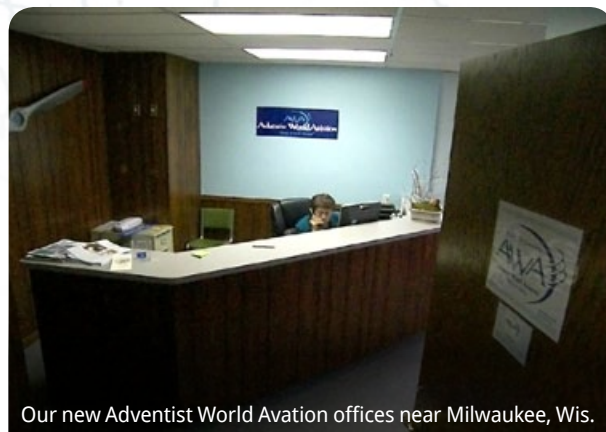
Second, AWA has new offices! We are now located at 9323 West Greenfield

Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214. We are situated in the Greater Milwaukee area between four airports. We found it necessary to have a facility that will help bring organization and centralization to our operations. We invite you to come visit us.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

A great change for AWA is the addition of Elaine Washkuhn, our new office administrator. She comes to us from Columbia St. Mary's healthcare system, where she has worked as a CNA and registrar. She has four children and five grandchildren. Her skills and professionalism will be a great asset to the AWA team.

Another great change for AWA is the decision to appoint someone as director of development and trust. It is our prayer that in the next *AirWAYS* we will be able to introduce you to the right individual



Our new Adventist World Aviation offices near Milwaukee, Wis.

who will work with us in development and planned giving, and who will have knowledge and expertise in fundraising, grants, trusts, and wills. This change will be very valuable to our ministry.

Our new director of maintenance, Bob Stone, is another very important and valuable addition to AWA. He is coming



to us from Daystar Adventist Academy, where he has directed their mission aviation program. He has over 11 years of experience working on a variety of aircraft, including helicopters, piston-, and turbine-powered aircraft.

In addition, AWA's treasurer, Charlie York, has decided to retire and spend more time with family. He will be moving to Tennessee. We are happy for him, but will miss him dearly. He has been invaluable to AWA, and has made my transition to the presidency very smooth. Thankfully, his role with AWA will be in transition as he continues his services part-time from Tennessee for the foreseeable future.

## CHANGES ABROAD

Changes are not just happening here in the homeland, but also in the mission field. We have new missionaries in the Philippines—Tom and Nora Kelly. Tom (TJ) comes to AWA with more than 1,500 flight hours and a vast knowledge of aviation. He is experienced in overseas travel and is excited about mission work. Nora will be a great support to TJ as together they serve Christ in the Philippines.

As our team continues to work together, we are looking to change the number of missionaries and to increase our presence in other areas of the world. There is so much work yet to be done—so many people yet to hear about Jesus—and many of these areas and people groups are in unentered, hard-to-reach areas where airplanes are needed. So, as we continue forward, our ministry is making plans to add new projects and more missionaries.

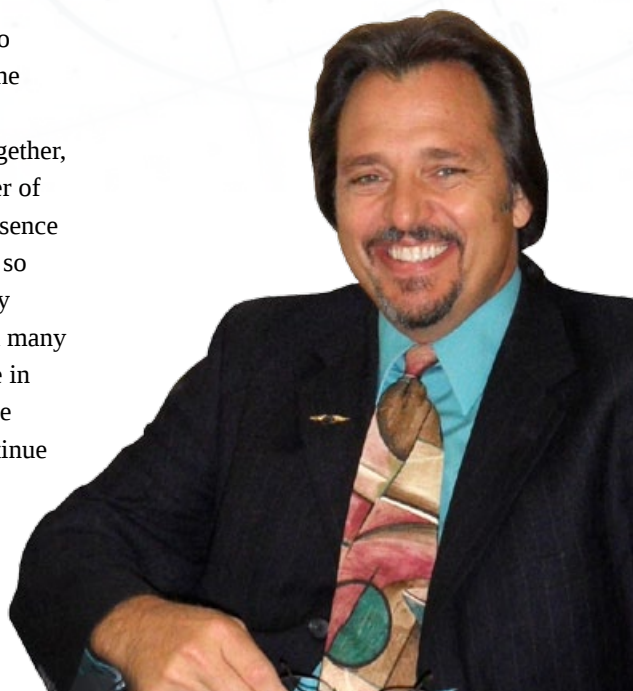
However, one thing that has not changed is the need for

your continued prayers and generous donations. Soaring oil prices continue to affect everyone, but AWA is particularly vulnerable to high fuel costs, which drastically affect its outreach and mission. Without resources to provide fuel and maintenance to the planes, many scheduled trips are impossible to complete, and villages are cut off, sometimes for months at a time. New church plants feel abandoned, and many die without necessary medicines and emergency medical evacuations. These situations have not changed!

We need your help, not only to continue support in these areas, but also to be able to take advantage of the new opportunities the Lord is opening for AWA. Please pray that our new changes will be a blessing to His ministry, and that He will continue to guide us in the areas that still need change!



Ric Swaningson, President/CEO  
Adventist World Aviation



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# A New Chief Pilot for AWA



Noel Clark is AWA's new chief pilot.

**N**oel Clark is the youngest of five children, born and raised in Green Bay, Wisc. to a loving Catholic family. As far back as Noel can remember, she has always had a love for the Lord. Noel attended Catholic schools all her life, and during high school was devoted to the idea of becoming a nun. However, God had other plans for her.

From a young age, Noel has always had a love for aviation. Early on, she joined the Civil Air Patrol at a local grass strip airport and started flying their J3 Piper Cub. She always had some sort of aviation job, and every extra penny was dedicated to flying. She has confessed to being “addicted” to flying. “I’ve always thanked the

Lord for this great blessing,” Noel recently confided, “but He was often assigned the copilot’s seat in many of my decisions as I pursued an aviation career and married life.” Noel had multiple opportunities for flying adventures and fun, and indeed she was very blessed. Yet, she still felt something was missing. But what?

Her fiancée was killed in a terrible accident while towing a banner behind an airplane. Next, the passing of her dad and then her mom brought Noel to her knees. In her pain, she felt that she had lost everything. She said, “I need to find out why there is this total emptiness.” Eventually, time helped to heal her pain, but still life seemed empty for her. Then one day, after

receiving a flier in the mail regarding a prophecy seminar at a local Seventh-day Adventist Church, she made a decision to see what studying God’s Word could do.

In 2004, it was Pastor Ric Swaningson’s message and the Holy Spirit that brought her to a renewed close and personal relationship with Christ. Noel said, “I found what I had been missing. It was Christ in my life. Jesus changed my life!”

That year, Noel was baptized in the Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church, and she continues to grow in Christ’s love every day. She also continues to work as a corporate pilot based out of Green Bay, and belongs to a loving Adventist church family. She says, “The blessings just keep flowing! Now I have the incredible opportunity to help out as the chief pilot for AWA. I pray that I can be a humble asset in all this great work for the Lord.”

Noel Clark, CFII, comes to us with 18,000 hours of flight experience and is certified in many types of aircraft, including rotor aircraft, amphibian, turbine, and jet.

She is currently the chief pilot in a King Air 200 and teaches often in a variety of aircraft. She is truly an instructor’s instructor. We warmly welcome Noel to our staff!



Not only does Noel pilot many types of airplanes, but rotor aircraft as well.

# Maintenance Director Chosen

**B**ob Stone started his aviation career in 1998 after getting his A&P license from Colorado Aero Tech. His first job was in Wichita, Kan., building jets for Cessna in their factory. Since then, he has worked for several other companies, gaining a broad range of experience. He also has experience with many types of aircraft—from experimental to the Falcon 20. Most recently, he has been the director of maintenance for an FAA Part 135 air taxi service in Southern Utah, maintaining Cessna 182, 206, and 207 aircrafts.

During all these years, he has dreamed of being involved with mission aviation. Being raised by missionary parents, he grew up in the mission field and has experienced life outside of the United States. He

truly enjoyed and valued his mission experience. He believes missionaries have the opportunity to personally experience the Lord working in many different cultures, which can be both challenging and exciting.

Bob and his wife, Sonya, along with their two children, Robby and Becky, are excited about working with AWA. In June of 2012, they plan to relocate to Wisconsin to join the AWA team. Bob will work at the AWA

hangar, helping to enlarge the ministry.

The family's deepest desire is to do whatever they can to spread the Three



Bob Stone, his wife, Sonya, and their children, Robby and Becky, join the AWA family.

Angels' Messages around the world and to hasten the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

# New AWA Office Manager

**E**laine Washkuhn adds to the professionalism of our team as AWA office administrator. Elaine comes to us with a healthcare background, having spent the last 25 years working for the Columbia St. Mary's healthcare system, initially as a CNA and registrar, and for the last nine years as a trainer for the admissions departments.

Elaine has four children and five

grandchildren and enjoys wildcrafting and studying natural medicine. She is currently enrolled in the Medical Missionary Training program offered by Wildwood.

You can reach Elaine at the office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (CST). Her e-mail address is [elaine@flyawa.org](mailto:elaine@flyawa.org).





# New Missionaries to the Philippines



TJ and Nora Kelly will serve as AWA missionaries in the Philippines.

**T**om (TJ) Kelly has always loved to fly. His first solo flight was at the age of 16. When he was 8 years old, he knew every type of plane there was to know about, according to his mom, and he could tell you what was flying overhead in an instant. For as long as TJ and Nora have been married (30 years), and for as long as they've known each other (34 years), TJ has always had a soft heart and love

for God. He has always wanted to give back to God with his gift of flying. This has been his dream.

TJ grew up Roman Catholic but fully committed his heart to the Lord in 1989 after a Revelation Seminar and further study with Pastor Al Oetmann in Greeley, Colo. TJ and Nora were baptized with their daughter, Tara, who was 7 years old at the time.

They have two children. Daughter

Tara (Kelly) Nelson is now 29 and married to Jason. Tara and Jason are the parents of Sofia. Son Ryan Kelly, age 24, is an aviation ordinance technician and petty officer 3rd class in the United States Navy.

TJ is a licensed PADI scuba instructor, avid skier, and outdoors person. He loves to fish, hike, camp, and hunt. He has rebuilt cars and has built an airplane while attending

University of Wisconsin-Stout. He also has a lifetime of construction experience, having assisted in building his father's lake home, as well as building and selling a home for profit.

TJ has been flying since 1990. His 1500 hours of experience include 200 multi-engine, 400 dual given, and 145 instrument. In 1996, while enlisted in the U.S. Navy, he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class in aviation electronics. Since April 2008, he has been a flight instructor in Menomonie, Wisc., and is currently assisting three students who aspire to become private pilots. He is experienced in overseas travel and is excitedly anticipating his mission assignment in the Philippines.



TJ has been flying since 1990. He will be sharing his many skills with the people of the Philippines.

# Blue Mountain Academy: Focused on Missions

## FLIGHT SCHOOL

**A**s we navigate through another school year, our thoughts turn to ways to infuse our flight training curriculum with the vision of service through missions. Central Pennsylvania, while remote by some standards, is a long way from the likes of the Philippines or Guyana. How can AWA-PA bring mission awareness to the students where they are right now?

One very tangible way we made this happen was to attend the Mission Aviation Fair held in Lancaster, Pa., a mere 24 nautical miles from Blue Mountain Academy. This annual gathering of missionaries and ministries was a showcase of how God uses aviation as a tool to reach people who might otherwise be unreachable. Several mission organizations were there, including Spokane Turbine Center, JAARS, MAF, MSI, MMS, ITEC, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Brigade Air, and many more. Some of the AWA-PA students took rides in the Quest Kodiak, Helio Courier,

was getting to speak with Steve Saint, founder of ITEC and son of martyred missionary pilot Nate Saint. Nate was one of five missionaries killed in 1956 while reaching out to the Waodani Indian tribe in Ecuador. The story of Nate Saint was told in the movie *The End of the Spear*.

AWA-PA has three new students in the private pilot ground school program this year. By the time this article goes to print, two of AWA-PA's flight training students from last year should be certified private pilots. Kelsey plans to pursue aviation and art at Walla Walla University. Chris plans to keep flying, gaining more experience as a senior at BMA with his new "license to learn."

There have been several improvements taking place at the Blue Mountain Academy airport. These include the installation of the pilot-controlled lighting module for our runway lights and rotating beacon. The lights can now be activated via the multicom frequency from up to 10 miles away. The lights stay on for 15 minutes, and then shut themselves off. Thanks to Tom Sitler for taking his July 4th holiday to configure and install this system. The final portion of the airport lighting project is the installation of strobe lights at each end of the runway, called Runway End Identifier Lights (REILs). Approximately \$800 is still needed to complete that project.

The second improvement at the airport is related to the first. When we dug the trenches for the wiring for the new runway lights a year ago, we backfilled the trenches and packed the soil down. However, the rain, snow, and general settling have caused the ruts to sink down slightly.

In April, the Blue Mountaineers



Pathfinders from Hamburg, Pa., help to smooth the runway at Blue Mountain Academy.

Pathfinder Club from Hamburg, Pa., came to our aid. They spent half a day spreading topsoil, tamping it down, and planting new grass seed in the places where the trenches had settled. It was wet and rainy on the prior Friday and Sabbath; however, on Sunday morning the Lord blessed us with great working weather. Young and old worked side-by-side, and by the time all the topsoil was gone, they had completed about half of the trench work at the airport. They plan to complete the rest of the project in September, once the new Pathfinder year gets underway.

We appreciate all our volunteers and supporters who have the passion to serve others in the field of aviation and missions. Thank you for your generous support, hard work, and prayers.

—Eric Engen & Rodney Becker



Blue Mountain students meet Steve Saint (third from left), pilot and missionary extraordinaire, at the Mission Aviation Fair held in Lancaster, Pa.

C-206, or R44 helicopter. They got to hear experiences from real missionaries, many of whom had suffered great personal hardships for the advancement of God's kingdom. One of the highlights of the event



# Heritage Academy: Praying for an Airstrip



This strip of pasture is the location for the new runway for Heritage Academy. Having a runway onsite will improve the program, providing convenience and savings of time and money from long commutes.

**T**he Lord continues to bless our training ground with fertile and willing hearts and minds. I am continually amazed with the maturity and caliber of our youth. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to share knowledge with them. To date, I have had the opportunity to work with eight student pilots, of which seven have worked in foreign mission fields while in high school and plan to use their aviation experience to further God's work when their training is complete.

The Lord gave us the opportunity to continue training beyond the end of school this past summer. During a six-week period, we had three students in training—two primary and one instrument. It was a grueling schedule

for all as we continued to struggle to fine tune our training infrastructure. In addition to flying as many hours in those six weeks as we had in the preceding 46-week period, we continued to have to drive 35 minutes each way to the airport (sometimes twice a day), and had some scheduled and unscheduled maintenance to contend with. At the end of six weeks, one private pilot received his license, one private student pilot was ready for his final check ride, one private student pilot awaited his first solo flight, one annual airplane inspection was completed, and one malfunctioning cylinder had been pulled and fixed.

This year has been exciting for our training program, because God has brought the additional courses

necessary for us not only to train pilots, but medical missionary pilots. Our school dedicated two weeks to the LIFE (Lay Institute for Evangelism) program, an intensive course in Bible study and witnessing. We also dedicated two weeks to disaster response training, CPR, and First Aid so we can continue to work with ACTS World Relief (Active Christians That Serve) in disaster response.

Our training curriculum has developed nicely over the past couple of years, and we have made the most with what God has blessed us with. However, time and resources continue to plague the growth of our program and limit the impact of our efforts. Every year, we have more willing and able young people coming to us than we can accommodate. Knowing there is such an immediate and increasing need for missionary pilots in the field, it is difficult to inform those interested in the program that they have to wait another year or more to enroll. Our fear is that they will become discouraged or distracted and turn away from their calling.

We hope to have a working runway on our campus this year. We lose two hours worth of flight training each day driving to and from the airport. We continue to pray that God will provide the necessary means so that we can dedicate that extra time to training more young people.

Recently, we met with a civil engineering firm that is willing to donate thousands of dollars in time and resources to design, plan, and execute the area for a runway. Once the runway is built, we will begin the



construction of our hangar, which will store and protect the aircraft and provide a much-needed area for routine maintenance. Funds are also needed for this part of the project.

We are also thankful that God has provided us with a quality airplane for primary training. Once they have completed their basic training, most students desire to obtain their instrument rating. A specially-

equipped airplane will be needed for this training.

This is possible by either replacing our current radio stack in our Cessna 150, or by acquiring a second aircraft with the necessary radios already installed. This is the best option as it provides flexibility and better utilization of each training hour available. A second airplane would also afford us the opportunity to hire

a second instructor, thus doubling our effectiveness and possibly expanding our exposure to other areas of ministry.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support for the AWA program at our academy. It is amazing to see our young people's enthusiasm in learning how to incorporate their aviation skills with their willingness to share Jesus with others.

—Doug Baker & Sam Miller

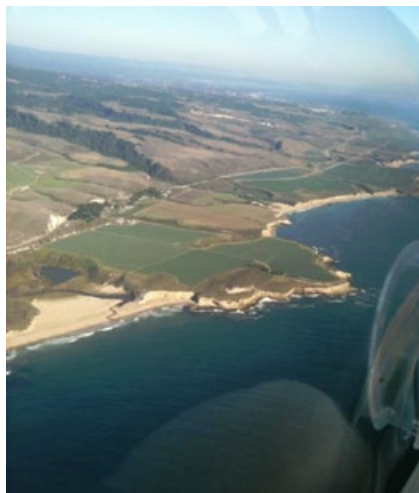
## Monterey Bay Academy: Who Will Be the Next Aviator?

**Y**ou never know who will become the next mission aviator or how your efforts will affect those you come in contact with. AWA-CA has touched the lives of youth and the public in many ways in the past month. In October, AWA-CA took part in an air faire in Marina, Calif. One gentlemen who came to the booth

expressed interest in what we were doing to help the youth become pilots and in promoting mission aviation. He revealed that he had grown up an Adventist and was interested in attending church again. The photos below are from a beautiful flight along the coast with Samm Sheperd, who has expressed interest in mission aviation.

Samm is an aviation student, wants to become a pilot, and has been on several mission trips. As educators for a mission aviation program, it is our job to plant seeds that grow. The youth of today will become our mission pilots for tomorrow. Please pray for the success of our program.

—Steve Syvertson







# On Eagles' WINGS

FOUR ADVENTIST WORLD AVATION FAMILIES ARE LABORING FOR THE HARVEST IN GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA. MISSION WORK ISN'T WITHOUT TURBULENCE OR ROUGH WEATHER, AND THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK CAN BE EXHAUSTING. BUT THE LORD LIFTS THEM UP AS THEY SERVE. IN THIS ISSUE, WE PRESENT FOUR REPORTS FROM GUYANA.

## THE WICKWIRE FAMILY

When we come home on furlough or holiday, oddly enough the first eye-openers we get are TV commercials. They tout the latest car models and design trends, along with some of the new things on the market. I think this year the advertisement that struck me as being the most telling was for pet food—and not just any pet food. This pet food is fresh, packed in visually pleasing plastic containers, and located in the deli section of your favorite grocery store next to the tofu dogs and turkey bologna. My point is not to scoff at those who love their pets. We love our cat and feed it Purina Cat Chow, probably considered an extravagance in Guyana,

so I want to be careful not to be the “pot calling the kettle black.” It just strikes home with amazing clarity, though, exactly how different life can be, depending on where you live on this planet.

For example, when volunteer dentists recently treated several hundred patients in the villages we serve, it became clear to them that many of these people probably suffer chronic toothaches from decay, infection, and gum disease—something I can hardly fathom, knowing just

how crippling that kind of pain can be. Life for so many of the world's population simply consists of surviving from day to day, and for the people of Guyana's interior, it is no exception. Life here can mean the search for clean







## GUYANA REPORT

water to drink, enough food to eat, and a constant fear of sickness and disease that can take the life of a family member at any time. Life is so fragile, and it seems that most people here live with an expectation of tragedy.

Not long ago, I had a call to pick up a two-year-old who had been suffering from seizures and had lost consciousness. The weather was cloudy but not too bad when I departed the base; but just a few miles out I encountered heavy rain. Once over the village, I could see the airstrip, but upon turning, the sheets of water on the windshield obscured the forward visibility too much to land. I circled in the area for about 15 minutes before the rain eased up for just a couple of minutes and I was able to land, whereupon almost immediately the downpour resumed. It was raining so hard that the water was pooled up to one inch deep on the airstrip, and when taxiing, the wing left a distinct shadow outline on the surface of the runway.

The truck was waiting, and with umbrellas overhead, we loaded up the patient, held by his mother, along with a nurse from the clinic to monitor him. The takeoff was another display of aquatics as we escaped the spray and drag of the standing water and climbed out on course for the capitol. With better weather ahead, I planned to level off at 7,500 feet, and sure enough as we passed 7,000 we came out into bright sunshine. My optimism was short-lived, however. Just as I was leveling off, the nurse signaled me that the little boy had stopped breathing, and minutes later she indicated that he had died. Unfortunately, there was no point in continuing on; all I could do was return so he could be buried in his home village. As his mother cried and held him tightly, I sadly turned back into the rain for the rapid descent to the airstrip. While the rain had eased up to a light shower, the mood was particularly dark and gloomy. As I held his small body, his mother climbed



out of the airplane, and I walked with her to the shelter at the side of the airstrip to wait for transportation home.

More recently, we were out at a village on the ocean called Almond Beach. We were about to load up the boat to head back when the health worker came by asking for help. Karen

Sherwood, RN, was with us and offered to assist. A little girl had stepped on a large fish bone while running around outside, and it had penetrated deep into the middle of her foot. Not only was it causing her a great deal of pain, but it was also showing signs of infection. The health worker had injected some local anesthetic and was trying to grasp the bone, but was unsuccessful. Karen tried her best, too, but was only able to pull out a small piece, so they both decided that the girl needed to go to the hospital.

We offered to take her, along with her slightly bigger sister, since her parents had to stay and look after the rest of the family. Her father carried her out to the boat through the chest-deep surf, and as the boat came down from a

crest, I scooped her from his arms. As I did, I could see the obvious concern in his eyes. This father knew and trusted us, because we weren't strangers. Being part of a long-term outreach, we had built relationships here for a long time. Building relationships based on trust is a very satisfying part of serving the people of Guyana and an important part of maintaining a sustainable ministry for as long as it is needed.

This little girl was able to get treatment. The bone had to be removed surgically, and she spent over a week at the hospital before going home. We were pleased to have played a small part in seeing that through, and to have

helped reduce the fear of the unknown, perhaps making life just a little bit better for this family while reflecting the love that Jesus so clearly shows to us.







## THE ZUKO FAMILY

One of my favorite Brazilian Adventist composers writes and sings a song called *Terra Secca*, which in English means, “Tough Ground.” Fernando Iglesias begins the song by painting a vivid picture of the true state of the earth (man’s heart) from a farmer’s perspective, saying, “The clod of earth, tired of waiting for the rain that will not come . . . who remembers the day that it last rained? Who

two who showed up; the rest of the church was full of mature folk. The second night was no different, but by God’s grace, a couple of high school students showed up and seemed to enjoy the messages. Also, Irwin blessed many with the songs he sang throughout the week while playing the piano.

Out here in the mission field we face various challenges, but one that stands out for me is dealing with hardened



will reap when the land is dry? Lord, send the rain of the Holy Spirit! Drench the whole earth with your love and with your power!”

Irwin and I found ourselves in beloved Kumaka to catch a boat headed to Kaituma. Together, we were to conduct a week of revival aimed at reminding the youth of the mission that we have as a church. We also wanted to focus on making disciples of the people we have come to serve so they, too, may become missionaries and be fruitful. We loaded our gear into Perry’s boat. The 750-cc engine roared to life, and soon we were ready to head upriver. This was Irwin’s first outing since his arrival, and he had looked forward to this trip so very much. The winding two-hour boat ride proved quite the thrill for my partner in mission!

Upon arrival in Kaituma, we walked from the docks right up to the church and did our best to make ourselves comfortable for the week ahead. Our theme, “The Discipleship Adventure,” was made up of six messages taken from Christ’s teachings, including invitations and encouragement given to his twelve disciples. Weeks before this project, I had personally invited all the young people that have become close friends to attend the meetings. But when the first night came, there were only

hearts. For many, the message of the cross and the invitation to follow Jesus is like a light shower that falls on clods of earth so dry that still it is hard to break the earth. The hearts of men have become hard as a result of not allowing the Holy Spirit to rain upon them daily.

Ill and without energy, we were carried by God throughout the week. We asked God to open the skies and let the rain fall so that the earth would bring forth a harvest. On the last evening of the revival series, and after sharing much from God’s word, a man came up to me and said, “Oh, I wish I had brought my son this evening so that he would hear the invitation of his life!” Another man, though not young enough to be classed as youth, stood up and asked for baptism, surrendering himself like the fishermen did, without questioning, to be taught by Christ in matters of making disciples. Yes, the field is hard and the earth is crusty, but look how one day of rain can bring forth a plant or two for the sake of the Master of the Harvest!

After we had endured days of mysterious illness, food poisoning, and no running water, the familiar yellow plane came to our rescue. As we finished the work on a Sunday morning, Jud happily flew us back to Mabaruma. Mission accomplished!



## THE LABORE FAMILY

We were very excited when Dr. Soderblom contacted us! He wanted to give his grandson, Bryan, the graduation gift of a mission trip to Guyana! We were doubly happy when we found out at the last minute that two Loma Linda University Medical Center first-year residents, Kevin and Ronaldo, wanted to come as well! We quickly modified the trip and welcomed them both onboard.

It was a whirlwind week as we visited a different clinic almost every day. The first stop was Baramita, where living conditions are rough, and were made rougher by the fact that the bag with the tents, water purifier, and all of Dr. Soderblom's clothes were left behind. Still, there were no complainers, and we all made do! (Eating oatmeal with no spoons was an interesting feat to be sure.)

Toward the end of clinic on the first day, a man came in who needed a med-evac to Georgetown. Laura and Bryan, who are already licensed pilots at the age of 18, hopped in the plane and took off with two patients on board. The weather was not good that day, and the clouds were creeping down to the jungle floor. Laura knew that they would not make it back that evening and would have to spend the night in Georgetown.

At first light the next day, Laura and Bryan took off to rejoin the team in Baramita. Upon arrival, breakfast was quickly eaten, and then we departed to the next stop, Matthew's Ridge, to catch ground transportation to our next village. After everyone was shuttled from the Matthew's Ridge air strip, they paid a guard to stay with the plane for security. Everyone piled in the truck for an hour's ride through mud and water to the beautiful village of Arakaka.

People were eager to be seen by a doctor. Many were willing to wait in line until 8:30 p.m. to be seen. Things were made especially interesting by the fact that the clinic

had no lights. From sundown onward, patients had to be seen by flashlight.

After the clinic, the team still had the muddy ride back to Matthew's Ridge—in the dark, though the jungle. Along the way, the truck's engine stopped running. While the team was praying, the driver took a long wrench and banged on the thing repeatedly. Miraculously, it started back up again! We didn't get to bed until after midnight that night.

The next morning arrived quickly, and we were back in

the air by 10 a.m. We flew to the Bemichi airstrip in the Maruca Sub-Region where we were scheduled to take a boat to the village of Manawarin. By the time we arrived, it was getting late, so we quickly piled into the boat. The hospital had also sent a Dentex, Medex, and community health worker, so it was a full-blown clinic. We arrived shortly before dark after a long, winding river ride through savannah and jungle. The ride was beautiful as birds darted around and water lilies dotted the edges of the river.

We had a house where the team could stay, but we didn't have enough mosquito nets or beds, and

there was no running water or electricity. We proceeded to set our tents up inside, having only our headlamps for lighting, and everyone quickly fell asleep.

The next morning, patients could be seen streaming toward the clinic, some traveling by canoes up and down the river while others traveled by foot on the trails. The team got busy and had a very full day. The people were very grateful for our help and waved goodbye as the boat backed away from the shore at the end of the day.

More than 100 patients were seen in these various clinics. These were villages where there is no regular doctor, so their help was very much appreciated! Our team is praying that our visitors will come back to visit us again soon.







## GUYANA REPORT



### THE VAN FOSSEN FAMILY

**O**n September 2, we flew the six-place airplane with our family and a load of household items to Mabaruma. We arrived shortly before sunset on Friday, so we left all non-essentials in the plane over Sabbath. We spent the weekend in Wickwire's empty house.

Many of our things had arrived before we did, having been shipped by boat days before we left Georgetown. The first truckload contained the things shipped in a big square box made of rebar called a cage to lock your things in until they arrive at the other end. These items were already sitting in disorganized piles in the living room.

On the following Sunday, the truck came with another load, including the washing machine, refrigerator, part of the bed frames, and other miscellaneous items.

It took most of a day to get the refrigerator with solar panel and battery set up—and even then it wasn't finished. A Peace Corp volunteer, who was working on a project to



improve and promote the use of solar power in the area, came by and made recommendations, including larger gauge wire.

The water system here is overseen by a local government water agency. Water is pumped to the community through pipes from a reservoir. We were told the water is pumped three days a week, but after the third day in our new home we still had no water. There is a tower with two 450-gallon water tanks behind the house and another one to receive water from the roof.

A couple of the pump days eventually yielded about five gallons. After some discussion, we determined that part of our water problem was that the pressure was not sufficient to pump the water to the top of the tower.

We had met Brother Born on a previous visit to Guyana, and he was a tremendous help. He spent an entire day putting up roof gutters for us and moving a water tank to collect water from the roof.

One of our tanks has now filled up. Brother Born also



## GUYANA REPORT



loaned us a water pump to move the water into the tank on the tower, and we can now get water into the house via pipe instead of bucket.

Two families—about twelve people—use water from the tanks. We hope to obtain an additional tank or two when we have the funding. We do appreciate having an inside toilet. However, the one we have was leaking in a number of places, and the mechanism inside the tank needed replacing. A taxi driver named Smokey was able to pick up a package with all the parts needed to overhaul the toilet and drop it by the airport in Georgetown when Greg made a stop there. It took another morning to complete that little project.

In general, the people seem friendly but reserved. On Sabbath, September 24, we went to a village called Barabina. A small church structure has been built there, and evangelistic programs have been held, but there has been a falling off of activities. We have been asked to go there and help.

A woman with two young boys accompanied us, and we invited Brother Born to come, too. We planned initially to

assess things and consider possible ways to help.

Greg also met with the pastor and discussed activities and strategies. The plan at present is to get to know key people in the community and learn what the local needs are before deciding how to proceed. Greg has spent about a half-day with one of the physicians at the hospital getting familiar with how things are done.

Learning the language is another challenge. For the most part, the words are English, but the dialect and grammar are different. Sometimes an entire sentence is spoken in English, and we still have no idea what was said.

Chrystal is doing some after-school tutoring. Here they have compulsory advancement, believing it is better for children to stay with their peers, regardless of mastery. The value placed on education is low, because most

jobs require only manual labor. Higher education is deemed unnecessary.

It is such a privilege to be serving with AWA in Guyana. With God, all things are possible. We covet your prayers and financial support.





# News from Gambell

**W**inter has set in. The snow is here, along with the wind. The ocean hasn't frozen over yet, but that is next. There is something intoxicating about looking out the window and seeing the wind blowing the snow around and around. But then you remember that there are families here in this village that don't have enough to eat, or enough money to buy fuel to keep the house warm.

Life here is a struggle at best. As part of our suicide prevention program, we have started to form a native dance group for the youth. We plan on taking them to South Dakota next summer to perform at the Crazy Horse Memorial. This will be a great experience for these young people, giving them something to look forward to. In

addition, we are making plans for a Christmas program and puppet show of the Christmas story for the young people to enjoy.

Our food bank distributed supplemental food to almost 400 people this month. I am so grateful for the Alaska Food Bank and all the food they send to us! It helps the village so much. The Chapel Oaks Church in Kansas funded turkeys for Thanksgiving. The people were so excited about receiving the turkeys. We appreciate all the support from the Chapel Oaks members so much.

The children are still coming after school. I thought I had met them all, but still new ones show up. I think as they reach the four-year-old category, they are allowed more freedom, so



Friendship evangelism connections are being made with Alaskan children through activities such as native dance groups.

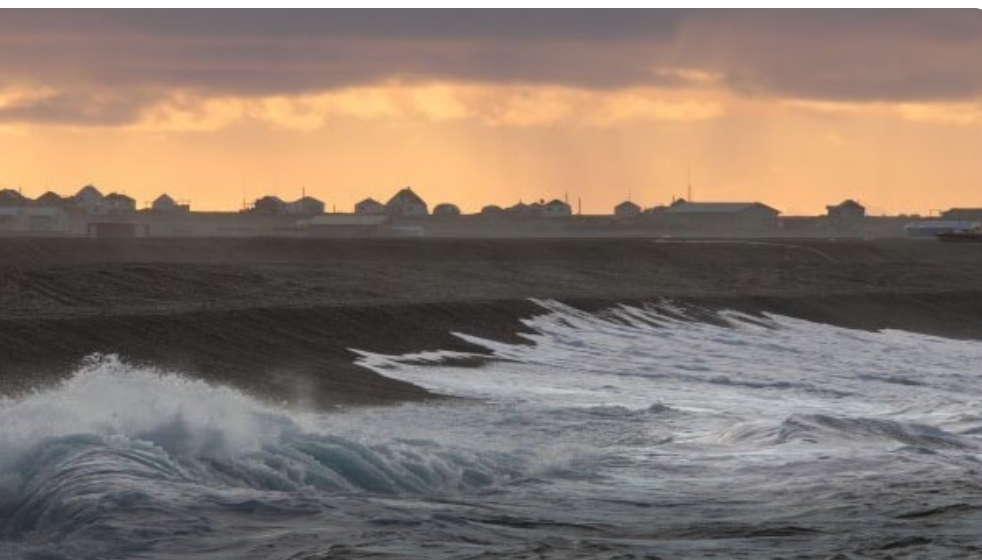
they come with sisters and brothers. We have had several new babies in the village in the last couple of months.

We are learning how to clean and tan seal skins as part of the dance group regalia preparations. It is quite hard work! Then there are dresses to sew, beaded headdresses to make, and mukluks. They are called something else in St. Lawrence Island Yu'pik, but I don't know how to spell it.

Mike and I went out to the beach last week and saw a group of sea lions feeding in the surf. They were talking to each other, and I was awestruck! Nature provides so much entertainment. Who needs TV?

We are seeing a slight increase in church attendance. Through the influence of the Holy Spirit and friendship evangelism, we can see a difference in attitudes. Please pray for the villages of Alaska. The physical needs seem overwhelming, but the spiritual needs are even greater. The children especially face so many obstacles to healthy growth. We can only do our best and pray that the Lord will cover our mistakes and shortcomings. With His help, His light will shine through and draw the children to Him.

—Mike & Fran Hansen



# News from Palawan

## PHILIPPINES UPDATE

One more year has passed by and it has been quite a busy one. We have been blessed to see God at work on many fronts, and we are very grateful.

We continue to be busy transporting people and supplies to the various projects in Palawan, taking speaking appointments to share what God has done for this project.

From summer 2010 through spring 2011, Philippine Frontier Missions has been busy moving missionaries around and training both new missionaries and some villagers. God helped us to keep up with their demand for transportation in the absence of a plane.

We were able to move people and goods to places like Daan, Quezon, Rizal, and Berong. Most of the time, we transported people and their supplies to conduct evangelism programs and training. Several times, medical evacuations of patients were necessary in order to save lives, as well as transporting medical professionals to the clinics.



Medical clinics offer wonderful opportunities for health evangelism.

In Berong, a training program was conducted that included health topics, evangelism principles, and church planting procedures. Through

partnerships with Philippine Frontier Missions and Quiet Hour Ministries, AWA is able to keep people, supplies, and the Word of God moving where it needs to go.

Another agency in need of transportation and logistics is Global Missions of Missionary Nurses (GMMN). These registered nurses from the Philippines spend a year working with local villagers in remote locations on their health and spiritual needs. After passing their boards, the nurses are willing to give a year of their life in service to God and His children. Some serve in a Tagbanua village near our airbase. We helped GMMN with transportation, lodging, and even a training location for their new nurses. They are currently expanding into places like Roxas and Taytay. Most of their work involves going from house to house, helping people in need through basic healthcare services. As relationships develop, people want to know more about Jesus.

Then there is Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Group (PAMAS), which we work closely with. While this group generally provides its own transportation, sometimes it brings in large medical teams and asks us to join them. One large group headed to Brooke's Point in southern Palawan to reach out to the Muslim community in three different barangays—Oring Oring, Malis, and Berong.

On any given day, we transported up to 26 medical professionals to one of the

sites for medical and surgical outreach. In the evenings, the team members shared with small groups the similarities and differences between the Quran and the Bible. They were even able to show how the Quran required them to read the Bible, producing interest among some of the Muslim believers.

Most of our efforts have involved



Small study groups are helping reach Muslim believers with truths from the Bible.

transferring people to and from Brooke's Point via Puerto Princesa—the central hub of Palawan. This is the main supply city where most of the food, medicines, and supplies come from.

We also work closely with the Palawan Adventist Mission in Puerto Princesa. We help mission people get to and from churches in need of help.

Our work here is truly a cooperative effort, requiring help from many hands. Paperwork has been completed on the airbase, and we have received full support from the governor to begin construction on the runway.

While costs of construction are less expensive in the Philippines than in other parts of the world, we do not yet have the budget for building the runway. We thank you for your continued prayers and your support for the work that is happening in Palawan, Philippines.



## PARTING WORDS

### MARGIE MITCHELL

Working with Adventist World Aviation has been an enlightening, rewarding, God-given experience. Nine years of graphically organizing missionary stories and actually seeing God work through people and events to further His kingdom has been amazing! Beyond words! God's mission for me was simple: lay out the *FlightLog* and lots of other printed materials; but in an office of only three people, everyone's talents in all areas were put to use. So, whatever needed to be done was done.

Encouraging the missionaries encouraged me, and their faithful service stood as a reminder of what God can do in all of our lives. God bless all the Adventist World Aviation missionaries and all the donors who selflessly put

themselves on the line to further God's Kingdom.

Thank you for the adventure! God has another one waiting in the wings for me. Can't wait to see what it is. God bless you all! —Margie

### JEFF BELL AND FLETCHER GRAHN

We want to thank Jeff Bell and Fletcher Grahn for their service in the last few years to AWA, and for the effort they have made to raise the awareness of the needs of the

mission work. Jeff and Fletcher have decided to pursue other ministries, and we wish them God's blessing in their future endeavors.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AWA TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, December 15, 2011  
5:00 p.m. (CST), 2100 Zulu time  
Conference call-in number: (308) 344-6400  
Access Code: 509275 #  
(Announce your name loud and clear.)



### BREAKFAST FLY-IN AND AIR SHOW

Sunday, May 27, 2012 (Memorial Day weekend)  
We will be hosting this fly-in and drive-in event at McDermott Airpark (31WI) in Sullivan, Wisc. For more details, visit our website at [www.FlyAWA.org](http://www.FlyAWA.org).





# PLANNED GIVING

Adventist World Aviation is now able to offer planned giving and trust services. We have recently partnered with Western Adventist Foundation. Founded in 1997 as a nonprofit organization, WAF was brought into existence to assist

Adventist entities by expertly managing their trust services and planned giving programs. Today the WAF team remains committed to the same values and goals that AWA was founded on over ten years ago. Their attorneys, administrators, and

caring business professionals have a vision to be an active part of the mission and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including ministries like AWA. For more information, please contact our trust director at 414-226-5195.



At the 2011 ASI Convention drawing, Christine Ford received Ric Swaningson's "Unsealing Revelations Mysteries" DVD set. Shown from left is Ric Swaningson, Christine Ford, and AWA fellow board member Paul Karmy. Congratulations Christine!





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