# FLIGHT

# LOG

Vol. 1, No 2

Adventist World Aviation Newsletter

**WINTER 1996** 

#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Don Starlin Chairman

Dear friends, the word is getting out! AWA is on the move and it's thrilling to watch as the Lord leads missionminded people to seek roles in finishing His work.

The AWA booth at the ASI International convention in August netted a number of inquiries from people who share our dream and wish to be involved in making it become reality. It also caught the

attention of ADRA officials, who would like to see AWA provide aviation support for their African projects.

AWA's 5-year business plan calls for the establishment of one pioneer air support ministry as well as assisting two existing programs during the first year. In order to fulfill this goal, we need to raise \$401,000. How the funds will be used will be the discussion of future articles in FLIGHT LOG.

Please join us as we pray that the Lord will continue to provide the funds and personnel necessary to carry out His will.

With warm regards,

DON STARLIN

#### BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

During organizational meetings held at the ASI International convention in Spokane, the following individuals were elected and officially accepted positions on the AWA Board of Directors:

Don Starlin, Chairman

James Aitken David Hensel
Derek Bradfield Harry Lloyd
Len Comwell Clyde Morgan

Don Folkenberg David Gates R.A. George

Clyde Peters Randy Purviance Bill Tucker

The Board of Directors and the members of AWA would like to express their sincere gratitude for the commitment and dedication exhibited by our interim officers during the establishment period. Without the invaluable efforts put forth by Neville Bradfield and his associates R.A. George, and Robert Seamount Jr., AWA would never have gotten off the ground.

Derek Bradfield's masterful orchestration of the 5-year Business Plan is also to be applauded. The work he did is something AWA can be very proud of.

These individuals have provided a sturdy foundation upon which AWA can grow. There is still much to be done before we reach our goals, but we are off to a healthy start.

# AROUND THE WORLD IN SIXTY

MAFINGA/IRINGA, TANZANIA -

Kibidula Farm Institute's Zenair CH701 has proven to be a highly efficient Sky Jeep which has contributed greatly to the advancement of the medical outreach program. Hundreds of villagers have come to view this aircraft as the difference between life and death.

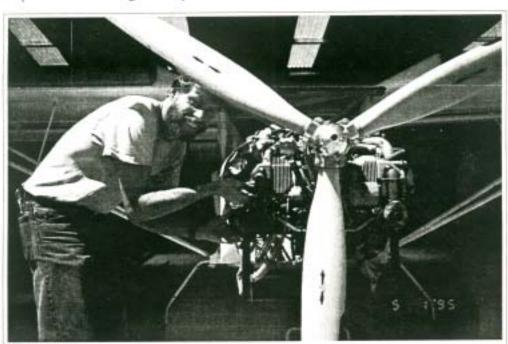
Kibidula personnel and the district pastor are discipling local couples to open new work in remote villages. Airstrips are under construction in each of the target villages so that regular visits and supply drops can be made, as well as to enable transportation of nurses into the village to run bush clinics for the surrounding areas.

The first village to be opened as a result of these training sessions is the village of Kiponda. Over thirty villagers have been coming to the missionary's hut every evening to sing songs and listen to Bible stories. Regular bush clinics will be operating soon in the Kiponda area.

#### KIPONDA, TANZANIA -

The first landing in Kiponda was witnessed by the whole village. People seemed to erupt out of the woodwork as the plane came into sight. They ran in

from all directions. whooping and hollering in excitement. Bill cleared the top tufts of thatch on several huts. slid left to avoid a mango tree, and was down and stopped in 120 feet. Villagers instantly swarmed around the plane.



Bill getting the Zenair CH701 STOL ready for flight

Many of the Kiponda villagers are suffering from tropical ulcers. One young boy told Bonnie Norton that he'd had the ulcer on his leg for at least a year. The Nortons decided to fly the boy to Kibidula in order to receive a second opinion on the cause of the ulcers.

The boy didn't seem to be afraid when Bill explained that flying was like riding in a car. He replied that he'd never ridden in a car. Seeing a car in this remote village is as rare as seeing a plane.

The boy was strapped in as the villagers wound up to a fever pitch. They understand that something can fall out of the sky, but it's another matter for something to leap into the sky and fly off like a bird. As Bill completed his checklist and advanced power for takeoff, the Zenair accelerated and then leapt off the ground. A great roar erupted from the villagers.

The boy was fine until he saw everything drop away below him. With a cry of terror he buried his head in Bill's shoulder for the 25 minute trip to Kibidula. Bonnie's diagnosis of Leishmaniasis was confirmed. The boy was treated and a package of medications was prepared for the return flight to the village. As Bill turned final for Kiponda, he noted that only one and a half hours had elapsed since he departing the same runway.

As the aircraft rolled to a stop, the villagers rushed the airplane in greater excitement than before, eager to talk to one of their own who had actually flown. The boy's parents expressed their profound thanks for the help he had received.

Just hearing their thanks makes the effort worth it a thousand times over. God is truly blessing as His workers take the gospel commission seriously

Bill and Bonnie Norton ask to be remembered in your prayers that God will continue to give Bill the skill and wisdom to guide his aircraft safely in a way that will glorify God.

### ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Over the past year board member David Gates and Caribbean Union officials worked to design an aviation program to assist and expand evangelistic, medical, and development work in the interior of Guyana. During the first official AWA board meeting in August David outlined plans for a possible exploratory trip with church and ADRA officials into the Guyanan jungles. By late September, David was pulling the expedition together in what was proving an imposing challenge of coordinating transportation, administrative scheduling, and government approval. About four weeks before the proposed October 22nd trip Don Starlin checked airline tickets round trip to Trinidad. An itinerary was printed. Cost: \$770.

Don, facing a work schedule that looked more and more hectic as the days passed, was wondering how to arrange for two weeks absence from his employment. On October 8, Andrews Airpark hosted a fly-in and pancake breakfast. AWA set up a promotional booth and while RA George and Don were manning the table, RA told Don of the burden the Lord had laid on his heart for mission aviation. There was a major conflict however — RA didn't want that burden. Over the past weeks the Lord hadn't let him rest until that very morning he gave in and accepted. RA was willing to work part time in the office for AWA. Answer to prayer, number one.

As the days passed, more and more communication flowed between Trinidad and Michigan. The aircraft that was scheduled to be flown into Guyana was down for maintenance, then it was scheduled for an annual inspection. It looked like another plane would be available. Then it wasn't. There was a conflict with the church administrative schedules. Maybe the trip should be postponed until November. Then the venture was put to the AWA board for a vote, but there wasn't a quorum. On and on trouble continued until late on the night of the 17th when Don received an urgent message from David. He had just spoken with church administrators in Guyana. They were expecting AWA on the 22nd. They only made trips into the interior once a year and they would be very disappointed if we couldn't come. Now what to do! Was the Lord in it or not?

First thing on the 18th, Don called RA, and advised him of the situation. A decision had to be made. Someone would have to fly to Trinidad on the 20th and that was only two days away. Don and RA had prayer over the phone and asked the Lord to make His will unmistakably evident. An hour or so later the travel agent called to find out if tickets were to be printed. Prices were running \$1300, and seats were still available. What to do?—still no answer.

Two hours later, RA walked into the travel agent's office. He wanted to check scheduling and prices. The travel agent pulled up the information and there on the screen was an itinerary for RA George to Trinidad! Shocked, RA asked where that came from, he hadn't asked for an itinerary. Apparently the travel agent, having made up an itinerary for priority passport renewal a couple of weeks previous, had forgotten to cancel it after printing. Next the agent pulled up current fares. In a matter of hours round trip costs had plummeted to \$442.00. The travel agent, every bit as amazed as RA, exclaimed, "that never happens!"

RA took that as a "Go" from the Lord. After an absence of two weeks, we are very anxious to hear his report! No doubt you will be too! Watch for details in the next issue of FlightLog.

### AWA VIDEO

AWA has completed production of its first promotional video. Watch bush flying at its best!

Learn the reasons why AWA was started and find out where it's going! A free copy can be yours for a minimum donation of \$50 to AWA. Your contribution can be tax deductible if made out to: Adventist Frontier Missions, but marked clearly for AWA. Send to Adventist World Aviation at the address below.

## FLIGHT LOG

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Adventist World Aviation is an independent non-profit organization operated by aviation and husiness professionals dedicated to using technology to solve transportation and communication difficulties in carrying out the gospel commission in remote areas.

AWA is extablishing a wide base of support from laymen around the world. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a part of this organization, please share this newsletter with them and send their name and address to AWA.

#### LETTERS FROM MISSIONARIES

The following is a letter in response to a care package sent to the Nortons at Kibidula, Tanzania.

Dear Trudi.

Wow! Christmas has come. Thank you SOOO much for your wonderful gifts of food. It means so much to us to have something different to eat now and

again. Imagine jumping for joy over lentils! We are (smile). I wish you could see the girls.

Believe it or not, I still have some of the candy you brought with you. Those eggs and candy corns. We have been oh so carefully rationing them out. The girls have been screaming and dancing with delight over each new bag of candy, cool-aid, pudding, etc. they find. They are in 7th heaven! They send a huge big THANK-YOU to Aunt Trudi.

I also enjoyed the pictures you sent so much. The shots of the lion are great! We were brave to stop and take time to look. One month ago the American pilot for the Baptist mission in Iringa, his wife and children were kidnapped by armed car thieves in Mikumi game park on their way to Dar. The family had stopped to go to the bathroom and it almost cost them their lives. They where held up by several men with AK-47's who were going to kill the whole family, but the pilot knelt down and started praying. The thieves asked him if he was a priest. He said, "No, but I'm a minister."

The bandits decided not to kill the family but drugged them instead, took the car and dumped the family way off in the bush somewhere. They also beat the pilot up badly, breaking his nose in the process.

The next day the family was located by air search and sent back to the U.S. to recuperate. Bill knows this pilot and we just praise God that He saved their lives and was with them in such a special way.

Every time we go to Dar we are taking a risk on

that road, but what is one to do??? Thanks for lifting my spirits with your wonderful care package.

Love much, Bonnie



Nurses Pat Duerksen and Bonnie Norton with villagers near Kibidula



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