

# FLIGHT LOG

Adventist World Aviation Newsletter

May 1997

## *Letter from the President*



*Don Starlin*

Dear friend of AWA,  
Thirty-six Maranatha Volunteers participated in the renovation of the Seventh-day Adventist air base outside Pucallpa, Peru, from January 19th through the 24th.

The hanger and pilot's house glisten with shiny new roofs. Termite damage was repaired and pesticides applied to the structures. New distribution switches handle electricity for four buildings, and a new overhead power line marches over the hill to serve the lake-front. To top it all off, an overhauled tractor and new mower will both be operational by June.

Charlie Henkelman, veteran Maranatha construction coordinator, was heard saying that this was one of the finest groups he had ever worked with.

What a tremendous privilege to work with such dedicated individuals! What an example of how great things can be accomplished for God when we all work together.

Christ's prayer that we might be one was answered! Let us continue that prayer.

With warm regards,  
Don Starlin

## *Around the World In 60 Seconds*

### **Tanzania**

Outpost Centers Inc. pilot, Bill Norton, has arrived safely in Tanzania. Norton, Andrews University, and AWA maintenance personnel worked

eight months rebuilding a 1968 model Aztec purchased from Andrews University. The six place twin will support OCI ministries throughout East Africa. Funding for the project was provided by a grant from Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries.

### **Zaire**

Jeff and Evelyn Green evacuated safely from Zaire ahead of advancing rebel forces. The Greens are currently waiting in Zambia for further instructions from East Zaire Union Mission officials.

### **Peru**

From jungle towns and villages, church volunteers are deploying to villages where the three angels messages have yet been heard. East Peru Mission officials are emphasizing extensive soul-winning training of lay-members. A baptismal service is planned at the air base for an estimated 400 souls on May 24th.

### **Guyana**

David Gates moved his family to the interior of Guyana in October, 1996. As of this writing Gates is at Andrews University preparing his Cessna 150 H.P. model 150 tail dragger for flights to villages requesting academic and spiritual instruction.



*Rebuilt Aztec for OCI East Africa*

*Photo by Don Starlin*

## A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING

by Beth R. Schaefer

Looking down at the landing strip cut out of the African bush, I wasn't too sure how soft this landing would be. The strip looked terribly short. We had to touch down close to the threshold and roll out before the trees.

This was the first flight into Kilunga for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The expectant swarm of people at the end of the strip looked like ants on a hill.

With arms clinching the seats in front of us, we waited for the wheels to hit. Looking at the pilot, I hoped he would have the plane under control, and he did: calmly, as if he'd landed there many times. We breathed a sigh of relief and released our grip.

As soon as we rolled to the end of the strip and swung the plane's tail around, the curious swarm started to close in. With smiles on their faces, yet timidity in their walk, the crowd prepared for a hearty greeting of strong handshakes and welcome songs as we emptied the plane.

Jeff Green was our pilot, currently flying a Cessna 206 for the Zaire Union (Songa) Mission.

"The airplane I fly was not airworthy when I got it. The last pilot took very good care of it. It was his baby, but it sat for three years after he left. There was a lot of deterioration," says Jeff of his 1960's vintage airplane. "It took me over a year to get the new engine and other parts for the plane." Laughing, he adds, "And then we had an accident putting in the engine. The windshield broke."

With me on the flight were two other representatives from ADRA International; David Syme, Vice President for Communication and Corporate

Development; Tereza Bryne, Director of Marketing, and the ADRA Zaire Director, Date Vanderwerff.

"It was a kind of 'deja vu' experience flying beside Jeff and landing for the first time on a rough strip hand-carved out of the African bush," said David. "Twenty-two years ago I sat in a 1962 Cessna 185 beside Jeff's father in a similar situation. The looks, the body language, the professional caress of the controls - so much was similar that I almost believed we were landing on a strip in Ethiopia rather than southern Zaire."

Jeff was flying us to various ADRA project locations. We were there to film ADRA's new television show, *ADRA'S World*, now airing on the

Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

Everything was going as scheduled until we got to Makunga. A family brought us a 13-year-old boy, skin stretched tight over his bones. David, a registered nurse, quickly examined him. It was decided that the boy should be flown to the ADRA hospital at Songa, an hour away.

Ever concerned about his passengers, Jeff prepared the boy, his aunt, and one of the clinic physicians for their

first flight ever -- a flight that meant the difference between life and death.

We really appreciated Jeff's professional approach to flying. I can say that Jeff provided me with my first experience of flying in the name of service -- and I was impressed.

Thanks, Jeff!



**Jeff and Evelyn Green**

*File Photo*

- Beth R. Schaefer, originally from Dayton, Ohio, is the News & Information Officer and Editor of the ADRA International Central Office quarterly magazine, *ADRA Today*.

## ***Jim Starlin Memorial Fund***

**J**im Starlin, father of AWA president Don Starlin, died on December 30, 1995, following a four year struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. Though not a pilot himself, he strongly supported mission projects, often giving selflessly so that others might experience the God whom he had come to know.

The Starlin family asked that those who knew him and wished to express their sympathy, do so by making a donation in his memory to Adventist World Aviation.

Gifts in memory of Jim Starlin have been made by:

Andrews University Department of Aviation  
Paul and Dorthy Cress  
Bill and Jackie Davidson  
Jay and Susan Godfrey  
Charlene Starlin  
Larry and Sandy Starlin  
Don and Trudi Starlin  
Ken and June Stover

## ***AWA Breaks New Ground***

**I**n a historic action this past February, AWA's executive committee voted to develop an aviation training program designed to assemble a cross-section of SDA personnel and supporting ministries in an all-out effort to provide air transport to front-line missions.

During the young adult missions conference, GO '97, AWA unveiled an ambitious proposal to a group of some forty students interested in dedicating their lives to mission aviation. Don Starlin listed twelve possible projects AWA had been solicited to develop, and then explained each project could take up to two years to launch. At that rate it might take twenty years to meet existing needs.

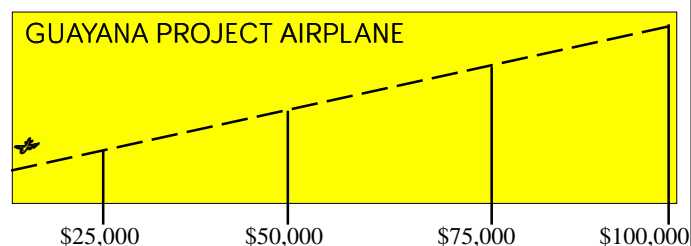
Parallel development was proposed as the answer to this predicament. Beginning this coming September, five students accepting the challenge will enroll at Andrews University for two years of concentrated mission aviation training.

Year one, the students will reconstruct an

aircraft destined for the mission field. During the summer they will attend Institute of World Mission and Adventist Frontier Mission's cross-cultural/medical training program. In the second year they will build another plane, maintain live aircraft, receive mission flight training, and share the needs of their projects with supporters.

AWA is in need of a project aircraft for the students to work on. In order to facilitate a very compact schedule the plane needs to be in hand no later than the first of September.

It has been determined that the project airplane (slated to go to Guyana) will cost approximately \$100,000 when fully restored and equipped for mission service. We solicit your prayers as we undertake this monumental task.



### ***FLIGHT LOG ✪***

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**Mission Statement:** In recognition of the urgency of the gospel commission, Adventist World Aviation exists to provide aviation, and related communications and logistical support, primarily to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its mission programs conducted in remote parts of the world.

AWA is establishing 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.

## Thoughts from the Log

by Bill Norton

I would like to ask you a question, “are you still in love with flying?”

In the message written to the church of Ephesus are these words, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have lost your first love.” (Rev 2:4)

Alright, alright, I admit this may be the ultimate distortion in stretching a verse way out of context! But seriously now, “are you still in love with flying?”

Love leaves a bit of magic on everything it touches. I’m not talking about squishy sentiments or merely ecstatic emotions.

The love I’m talking about is one that isn’t satisfied with just landing somewhere on the runway; but takes off around the patch one more time just to get it right. A love that goes beyond altitude and heading limits to leave its kiss of silk on the controls.

Even mundane chores like chopping wood or carrying out the garbage have been known to take on a special glow when love sneaks into the picture...

I know you’ve worked hard getting all those ratings. I know you pride yourself in staying proficient. Yes, you may be disciplined and professional.

But are you still in love?

When was the last time that you found yourself up there in the deep blue sky, chasing around some wispy cloud and yelling your fool head off with sheer exuberance and delight? So long you can’t remember? Maybe it’s time to:

-slip away from an impossible work schedule to catch the quiet glow of a sunset on your wings.

-take a moment’s break from pounding those FAA limits into that hapless student to share with

him why you still smile when you’re doing this (you do smile, don’t you?!)

-sneak into that old taildragger all by your lonesome and face the challenge of a forward slip to perfect a wheel landing... on one wheel!

-take that neighbor kid for a flight! Remember how you used to stare so longingly at the sky yourself?

-get 100 of your closest friends together and see who can airdrop that bag of flour into the barrel.

Love has a way of inspiring the routine. Don’t be surprised if you catch it knocking down the doors of the impossible!

As you spread your wings in response to God’s call to reach a dying planet, watch for and treasure rays of joy that come streaking in from the land where flight was born.



*Bill, Bonnie, Briana, and Betsy Norton*

*File Photo*

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