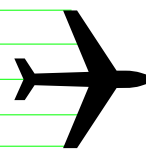


FLIGHT LOG



DECEMBER 1998

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 No. 3

Merry Christmas, Dear Friend of AWA !!!

THE CHRISTMAS FLIGHT



Melchizedek Ponniah

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:13, 14).

These words of the celestial choral music, heard almost 2000 years ago, continues to reverberate

Today, angels continue to fly with the Adventist World Aviation flights carrying the sentiment of this long-ago anthem to receptive hearts—unreached people groups.

on earth. Angels, who excel in strength and power, made that first Christmas flight! The purpose of that Christmas flight: to declare the Good News to the receptive hearts—the shepherds.

Today, angels continue to fly with the Adventist World Aviation flights carrying the sentiment of this long-ago anthem to receptive hearts—unreached people groups. This

song, combined with the message of the soon returning Savior, must be heard everywhere! That includes the jungles of Guyana, islands of Palawan and Mindoro in the Philippines, Sudan and other places. As there is no road system or any other mode of transportation, aviation is the only means to take the Gospel to these isolated people groups. AWA actively seeks to provide aviation support for such a mission.

Marcio and Jane Costa, Brazilian nationals, have accepted God's call to help reach the animistic tribes in the southern part of Guyana, close to the Brazilian border. Marcio, an electrical engineer by training, transferred to Andrews University last September. Marcio is enrolled in AWA classes to qualify as a missionary pilot. Jane, his wife, an OB/GYN Nurse, will provide the much needed medical care for the Amerindians. Their services will be much appreciated in the jungles of Guyana as they reach hundreds of Amerindians with the message of Christ. Marcio is one of the many students featured in this issue of the *Flight Log*.

Clifton Brooks responded to God's call to provide air-support to the frontier missionaries in Palawan and Mindoro in the Philippines. Clif's article in this issue provides additional

See page 2

Around the World in 60 Seconds

GUYANA NEWS

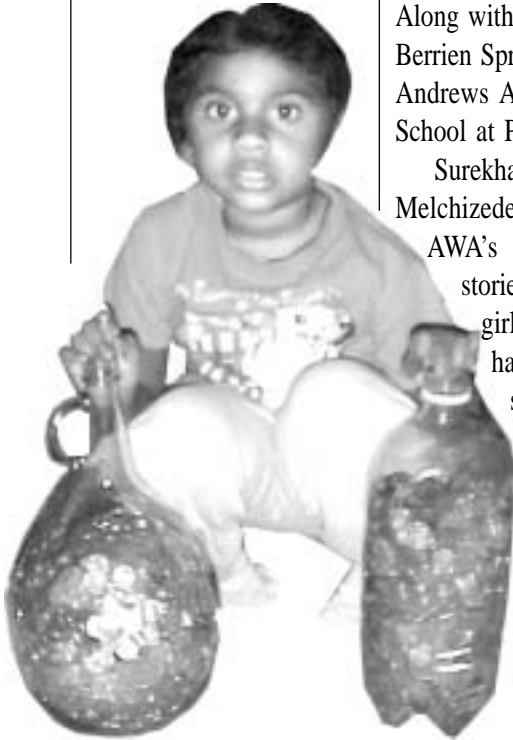
A young Guyanese college student from Caribbean Union College felt driven to begin evangelizing his home region. This young missionary plans to return to Guyana right away to prepare his "home on the hill" to serve as a TV broadcast station while clearing the savannah grass for a runway.

The Guyanese authorities have granted approval for Adventist TV transmission on Channel 7 that has already been designated by the FMU for use in the South.

The new Adventist school building is completed in Paruima and the main structure for another was put up. David Gates reports that he experienced God's direct intervention in providing funds for the construction work.



SUREKHA DONATES PENNIES



Instead of saving her pennies for Christmas toys, little Surekah donated her collection to "AAA"

"For AAA, Thatha (granduncle) Melchi" said four year-old Surekha as she pointed out to her collection of pennies. Her grandmother, Sumathi, and her mother, Vineesha, helped her collect pennies for Christmas gifts. Along with her mother, she lives in Berrien Springs not too far from the Andrews Airpark. She attends Sabbath School at Pioneer Memorial Church.

Surekha has often heard Dr. Melchizedek Ponniah talk about AWA's ministry in Guyana and stories about the little boys and girls in the Guyanese jungle. She had also seen video footage of sick people being helped by AWA personnel. Instead of saving her pennies for Christmas toys, little Surekah donated her collection to "AAA" (AWA).

These pennies may not be much, but it meant a lot of sacrifice on Surekha's part to donate them to AWA. She gave her entire collection—she gave it all! Thank you Surekha. "She has done what she could." How about you and me?

THE CHRISTMAS FLIGHT

Continued from page 1

information on this project.

David Gates continues to pioneer aviation ministry in the northwestern jungles of Guyana. A training school for the "Davis Indians," recently established in Paurima, is already in need of additional space. Students walked for many days from other jungle villages to be trained as lay missionaries. David's mercy flights continue to save many lives every day. The medical assistance provided by David and his wife, Becky, forged friendly relationships. Consequently, David's effort to bring the NET'98 signal via satellite found a receptive audience and favorable hearing. Aviation ministry facilitated taking the song of the angels to this uttermost part of the earth.

Angels still fly the length and breadth of this earth but use committed men and women to declare the message of Jesus returning to this earth in a little while. "God is not dependent upon men for the advancement of His cause. He might have made angels the ambassadors of His truth. . . But in order to cultivate a spirit of benevolence in us, He has chosen to employ men to do this work" (White, R & H., Dec. 7, 1886). AWA is fully committed to fly with the angels "carrying the everlasting good news to preach to those on earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people" (Rev. 14:6 TLB).

A messenger of the Lord appeals to us saying, "I entreat you, my bretheren and sister, to make . . . Christmas a blessing to yourselves and others (White, R & H., Dec. 17, 1889). You can make this

Christmas a blessing to the unreached people groups with your prayers and financial support to AWA.

Mission pilots stand poised to make the Christmas flight with the Angels to carry the good news that Jesus is coming again!

Dr. Melchizedek Ponniah is vice president of Adventist World Aviation

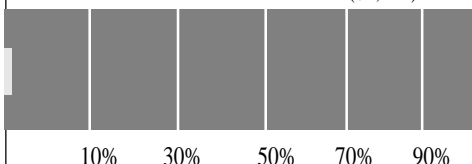


AIRCRAFT FUND

LAUNCHING EXPENSES (\$ 107,000)



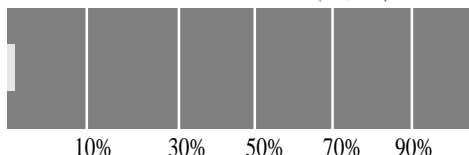
MONTHLY MINISTRY SUPPORT (\$9,000)



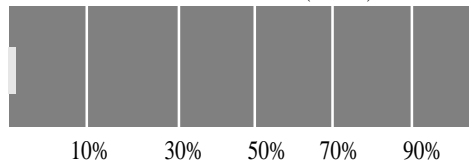
Guyana Project

MISSIONARY FUND

LAUNCHING EXPENSES (\$ 7,000)



MONTHLY SUPPORT (\$8,000)



Some of the world's most rugged and remote terrain lies scattered about the South Pacific on small volcanic islands. The interiors of much of this land have remained untouched by the modern world for centuries.

PHILIPPINES PROJECT



Supplies will be airdropped over the outposts on a regular schedule. The aircraft will also be available for emergency service. Because of the support service that AWA will be providing, Philippine Frontier Missions hopes to deploy up to fifteen new missionaries to new projects, even within the next year.



Hundreds of ethnic groups are widely scattered throughout the dense, malaria-infested jungles. Sometimes it's hard to imagine that these people are really a part of the modern society. But they are God's children, and our Lord Jesus Christ surely had them in His mind when He promised that the good news of His salvation would be preached to all the world before the end of time.

Late last year, AWA received a request for air support from Adventist Frontier Missions staff living in the interior of the Philippines—the islands of Palawan and Mindoro. There are neither roads nor waterways.

God has led AWA to supply the answer through the use of aircraft. Aviation in these areas is not just a nicety; it's a necessity. Aviation support will allow the missionaries operating in the interiors to expand their influence by allowing them to dedicate precious time to their ministry. Initially, the majority of this project will consist of airdrops. The aircraft will be stationed at a major airport and contact will be maintained with the missionary outposts by radio.



Funding has been granted by Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) and generous donors to purchase the aircraft. Right now we are looking for God to

reveal to us the exact aircraft that He wants us to use. The project will go forward financially by faith. This is God's project, and He will enable and provide. Please support this project in your prayers.



Clifton Brooks is an aircraft engineering technology student at Andrews University and an AWA missionary candidate.

Flight Log is thankful to Adventist Frontier Missions for providing the beautiful pictures taken by the AFM missionaries in the Philippines!

MEMORIALS

DONOR

IN MEMORY OF

Reinhard Jarschke
Lauren & Cheryl Moulton
Josip & Ester Benko

Shirley Burton
Gely Cress
Helen Owings
Charlotte Randall
Lois Lowry Neil

Don Cantrell
Howard Gregory
Destroyed SDA Churches in
Bosnia, Hercegovina and Croatia
My mother - Verle Cowin-Morris
Jim Starlin
Charles Valentic
Bert Randall
Sidney W. Lawrey

Hans Wijma, 19 years old, was born in Washington. Hans says that God worked out every item so he could enroll in the AWA program to become a missionary pilot. Hans likes soccer, basketball, and hanging out with his friends. The desire of his heart is to work for God, man, and have an everlasting peace. After his graduation, he wants to be a missionary and allow God to work through him.



AWA

Missionaries-in-training

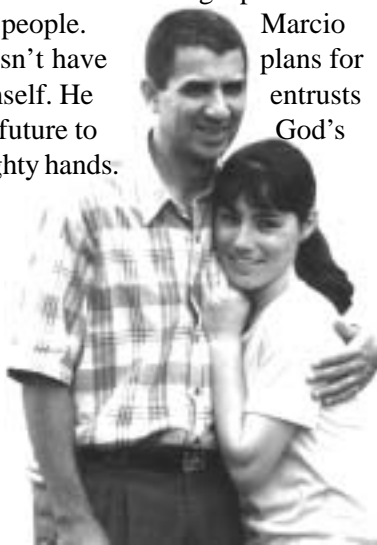


George Catanitoiu, 40 years old, was born in Romania. He considers his involvement with AWA as God's answer to his prayer to change his life. George enjoys flying and working with computer. His dream for himself and his family is to be among the redeemed people in the new earth. After graduation, George wants to work as a missionary in any place God calls him.



Daniel Roos, 29, was born in Arizona and grew up in Africa. He says that God has given him the desire to become a mission pilot. Daniel loves to work with airplanes, and after graduation he wants to go overseas to help missionaries as a pilot.

Marcio Costa, (pictured with his wife Jane), 34, was born in Brazil. His decided to become a missionary pilot because he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit. He also felt divine guidance when he started to move in that direction. Marcio loves to travel, meet new people, study different cultures and different languages. His desire, after graduation, is to start helping others and share the gospel with the people. Marcio doesn't have himself. He entrusts God's his future to mighty hands.



The missionary-pilot training program is a significant aspect of AWA's ministry. Students enrolled in the program believe that God called them to fly with the angels to carry the good news. While pursuing an aviation major at Andrews University, these students attend the AWA classes that provide the needed training for mission pilots. They come from all around the world, including North America.

Kyle Kennedy is 18 years old. He was born in Kinsman, Ohio. Acceptance into AWA program and time spent in prayer persuaded him to become a missionary pilot. He enjoys mountain biking, football, and soccer. His prayer is for the fulfillment of God's will in his life. After graduation, he is planning to work in the mission field and to continue to seek God's guidance in his life.





Laura Kopitzke, RN and AWA student, is 29 years old. She was born in Minnesota. On the question, "What persuaded you to become a missionary pilot?" she answers, "It's in my blood! I love to fly, and there seems no other place in aviation that would be as challenging as being a bush pilot." Laura wants to live each day to its fullest. She also desires to develop an exciting relationship with God and to share with others what God has given to her. Laura says, "I'm ready to go where God has prepared me to go".

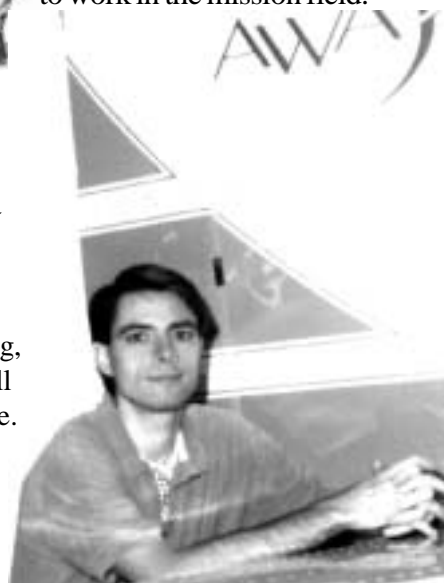
Andy Klein, 22, was born in Arizona. He feels that it is God who persuaded him to become a missionary. He also feels that being a pilot is a part of his Christian vocation. Among his favorite things to do are writing and working with small children. The desire of his heart is to see God's work on this earth finished so that Jesus can come soon. Andy is looking forward to further AWA training.



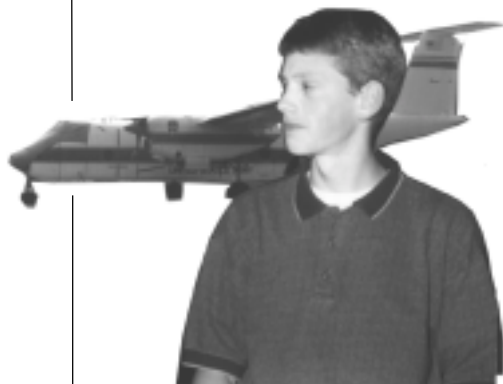
Hans Rookstool, 19, was born in Osburn, Idaho. Hans always enjoyed aviation. After he went on a missionary trip to Mexico last February, he felt impressed that this is what he should do for the rest of his life. Hans wants God to use him for the salvation of at least one person. After graduation, he plans to work in the mission field.



Clifton Brooks, 25 years old, was born in the USA. To become a missionary pilot, he was persuaded "by a strong excitement due to the impression of God." Three favorite activities are an in-line skating, flying, and stargazing. He prays for the will of God to be accomplished in his life. After graduation, he is planning "to follow God's leading to the Philippines."



Jonathan Kincaid, 18 years old, was born in Palmer, Alaska. He plans to become a missionary pilot because he realizes the great need for the spreading of the love of Christ and experiencing the joy of doing God's will. His dream is to be totally surrendered to God. After graduation, he wants to enter the mission field.



Adventist World Aviation missionaries-in-training are anxious to share their experiences and God's providence in their lives with your church. AWA personnel will be happy to present the Sabbath School program and participate in the divine service. For further information, please call Dr. Melchizedek Ponniah at (616) 473-0135 or E-mail: MPonniah@compuserve.com

The missionaries in many countries are looking forward to hearing the roar of a plane with three letters on its tale: AWA.

A SABBATH WITH AWA

"This place is gorgeous!"—this was the feeling of more than 50 men and women gathered at a United Methodist Camp in a wooded area to spend a Sabbath. There was, however, something else in which they were consonant—they all believed that the Three Angels message can reach the remote, untouched regions, either on the wings of the angels or with the help of missionary aviation.

Many of those present that Sabbath knew from experience.



John and Belinda Kent shared their missionary experiences from Papua

New Guinea. John described some of his journeys in the jungles so realistically that everyone could almost hear the roar of billions of hungry mosquitos and imagine the alligators twice the size of a small missionary boat. A hundred miles of such a journey isn't easy. What about the thousands of villages that are hundreds miles away from the nearest phone or store? What about those settlements that are located far from the river?

There was another missionary who could answer those questions from his own experience.



Kent George, AFM missionary to the Philippines, told how it

took him several days to reach villages only a few miles away. Hard to believe, isn't it? It's hard to understand, especially if you look at a man as strong and vibrant as Kent George. I wonder, how many days it would take me to

get there? Would I get there at all?

Surrounded by modern technology, we could hardly believe that there are still thousands of areas on this earth with populations of millions who have never

"The gospel hasn't reached the remote regions in the last 2,000 years, and it's surely not going to happen now without aviation. That is the reason for the existence of AWA."



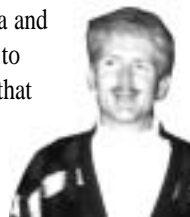
The gift of music is among the many gifts of Clifton, Daniel, and Wayne.

heard the sound of an airplane. It sounds romantic but isn't. The people are dying of the diseases that we have successfully fought for years, maybe centuries. They never have heard the name of Jesus Christ. It is a humanly impossible and discouraging situation. There is way to reach them—God's people should respond

Oleg Zhigankov

to His call and join Him in His work.

These young pilots-in-training, tomorrow's missionaries to Africa, Asia, South America, Alaska and other places, are going to provide the vital link that will bring the light of Christianity to the people. "If God is going to



use his people," said **Don Starlin**, "there is only one way in which this work will be done—aviation supported missionaries will have to do the job. It is not going to happen any other way. The gospel hasn't reached them in the last 2,000 years, and it's surely not going to happen now without aviation. That is the reason for the existence of AWA."

David Gates, a missionary pilot, said "God has guided His people to a

realization that mission aviation is an important means of the proclaiming of the good news."

It is evident that God is handpicking His servants for a final call to this planet. Might He be calling you?



INTERNET EXPLORER

Address



David Poloche invites you to visit the AWA webpage. We have been making some changes to the old one and working on a database which should be accessible soon.

ENTER

Please remember to pray for MAF and national evangelists like these in Irian Jaya, as we work together to take the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are waiting to hear.



AWA LOGO



When the time came to develop a logo for AWA, Heidi Mendoza, a senior graphic arts major at Andrews University, was asked to share her talents with AWA.

"I considered this work," says Heidi, "as a ministry. It is not just a logo for me; it is a representation of the mission of Christ. I understood that I could not accomplish it by myself and asked the Lord for His help. The global ministry of AWA suggests the using of the

globe in its logo, but the globe is so overused. Most of the international organizations use it in their logos. AWA needed something unique. So, I decided to present a globe in a symbolic way, in the form that expresses dynamic motion. And the three lines that cross it are three angels flying around the world. The Three Angels message tells us that we need to preach to the entire world the everlasting gospel."

Thank you, Heidi, for your contribution!



I am an Adventist pilot living in Detroit, Michigan. I've just read the Lake Union Herald article. Outstanding!

I'd like to join and support AWA with my time and means. My son is a

freshman at Andrews University so I fly up to Andrews often to see him. Now I also want to meet the representatives of AWA.

Please send me your newsletters.

Charles Bracken



"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

On Monday, September 21, 1998,

Jeff Tachenko, AWA's first recruited, processed, screened, and voted mission pilot succumbed to a 10-month battle with leukemia.

The Tachenko family was officially approved a year ago to assist the Gates family in Guyana. Last November, Jeff sat for and passed his written pilot exams in Georgetown.

Jeff was on a two week exploratory trip in Guyana with David Gates when he experienced a blood clot in his leg. A piece of the clot broke off and went to a lung. Upon returning to the States during treatment for the clots, it was discovered that he had leukemia. The doctors told him he would live six months. God blessed him with a few more. Jeff leaves behind a beautiful wife and two precious children.

The mighty has fallen. Who will rise to stand in the gap?

Flight Log Staff



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Mission Statement

Recognizing the urgency of the gospel commission, Adventist World Aviation (AWA) provides aviation, transportation, communications, and logistical support to front-line missions.

Adventist World Aviation

is a missionary-sending agency. As a supporting ministry, AWA operates primarily in cooperation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Funded by private contributions, AWA enables missionaries to reach the unreached around the world.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Don Starlin

As I write, the miracle of satellite technology conveys the good news about a loving “forever friend” to millions around the planet through Net’98.

My thoughts go out to those dear children of God in remote locations of this

planet who will never see a satellite broadcast or hear a radio program. By the millions they wait in darkness, subject to the constant manipulation of evil spirits.

The Word of God is sure. “And the Good News about the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it, and then, finally, the end will come.” (Matt. 24:14, *The Living Bible*) The gospel will be preached because the end is coming!

Some people groups are so remote there are only two ways they will ever hear the liberating good news. Either aviation-enabled missionaries will carry it, or God will have no other option than to send angels to do the job.

We know God prefers to work with and through his children that they may come to a greater understanding of His passion for those yet living under demonic influence. This has enormous implications for mission aviation. AWA staff

believes God Himself has raised up this organization to accomplish that which satellite and radio technology cannot.

For two years we’ve prayed God would send us those whom He has selected to accomplish this mission. In the past six months we’ve seen those prayers answered. In this issue you will meet those whom Divinity has chosen. God isn’t finished, however. It has begun as trickle. It will end in a flood.

What role is God calling you to fill in this last major offensive of the kingdom?



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