



## PATHFINDERS: NORTH TO ALASKA!



Photograph by John Payne, AWA volunteer pilot.

**The following are reports from Iowa/Missouri Pathfinder team members who went to Bethel and Togiak, Alaska to present Jesus through Vacation Bible Schools. A different aspect of the mission experience impressed each team member. Everyone, however, came closer to God and developed a stronger desire to serve Him.**

I think this mission trip was an important experience for my life. Being able to minister to the children about Christ was actually a revelation for me. The feeling of knowing that I did something to impact a child's life is more than a gratifying experience.

Joseph Galan  
Bethel team

I was on the Togiak team, but was going to help with the adult classes because I thought I didn't like little children very much. God blessed me with this trip so I could learn more about Him and find my true love for children. They are not so bad after all. I may have an opportunity to return to Alaska next year and help with the church in Dillingham for the summer, after VBS in Togiak. I feel closer to God than before.

Andy Dorris  
Togiak Team  
Springfield, MO Church

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ALL MISSION PILOTS, WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE  
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Expiration date



If using your checking account, please provide:  
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Vol. 9 No. 3  
Summer 2003

### FLIGHT LOG ✈

is published by  
**Adventist World Aviation**  
and sent free of charge to  
interested subscribers.  
Send all inquiries or  
change of address notices to:

**Adventist World Aviation**  
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**Mission Statement**  
Adventist World Aviation exists  
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the forgotten peoples of the earth.

**Adventist World Aviation**  
is a missionary-sending agency.  
Funded by private contributions,  
AWA enables missionaries to  
reach the unreached  
around the world.

# Furlough Thoughts

by Clifton Brooks

Hmmmm... Phhhheewww... I breathe in slowly and deeply, then breathe out just as slowly. It's so clean and fresh smelling. Aaahhhh... And what is that sweet smell? Oh, it must be that tree in bloom with spring blossoms. Everything is so nice. Just look at all the grass and green trees, the wide-open spaces and flowers. I never thought of Michigan as being so beautiful before.

That's right, it's Michigan. Here we are, back in the States. What a long and tiring flight! But we're already on the ground again, driving roads that seem so familiar and yet at the same time seem so foreign.

We have been in the Philippines for nine months now. God has helped us lay the foundation necessary to start a flight program in the country. We assisted Jeff Green in setting up radios for frontier missionaries we'll be serving. Banking systems for **AWA-Philippines** and a network of contacts are in place. I now have a Philippine commercial pilot license and aircraft mechanic license.

We are now ready to be of more service to the missionaries and we need the plane to do that.

Pray with us that God will touch the hearts of His people so that the aircraft launching goals can be met swiftly. Pray with us that the missionaries serving in the Philippines will remain strong in the faith and in their work and not lose heart.

We can say with even greater assurance that there is a true need for aircraft and communication support for missionaries in the Philippines. God has demonstrated the opportunities for ministry to us. He has given us the required training. And He has placed a burden in our hearts that cannot be displaced.

FLIGHT LOG

Our only goal now is to get back to the Philippines with the equipment necessary to do the work. We need the wings God has given us to take the Gospel forward, further and deeper than it has gone before. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support



Clif with a donated radio.

Kamantian, Palawan.  
Can you spot the future runway?

## PHILIPPINES PROJECT



Clifton and Cynthia Brooks

Brooks Launching Expenses \$65,560

Complete - Thank You!

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$606 Still Needed

Brooks Monthly Support \$3,959



Andy Klein

Klein Launching Expenses \$31,761

\$18,414 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$2,223 Still Needed

Klein Monthly Support \$2,620

### Airplane/Operating

Aircraft/Equipment Launching Budget \$283,766

\$80,040 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

Monthly People Group Sponsorship\* \$22,500

\$21,750 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\* \$750 per month per village will provide air and communications services to frontier missionaries in one of 30 unreached people groups in the Philippines.





Togiak Group at Anchorage Airport

#### Continued from the front cover.

This year seven staff and thirteen Pathfinders flew from Kansas City to Anchorage. Ten flew on to Bethel on a commercial flight and ten went to Togiak on 4-6 seat planes. This was the second year a group has gone to Togiak. Togiak is a fishing village of 900 hundred people, mostly Yu'pik Eskimos. Bethel is also Yu'pik.

Group size is limited by accommodations. When small planes are used, space is at a premium, especially since all supplies and food have to be flown in along with the passengers.

The Togiak team was richly blessed by friendships made last year. We were bursting at the seams with 117 children attending throughout the week. The highest one-day count was 79. The program included puppet skits that taught object lessons and Bible truths, crafts, music, games and snacks of fresh apples and oranges. Good fruit is very

Gospel Puppets



precious and greatly enjoyed.

The children were very enthusiastic and quickly became friends with the Path-

finders. One evening we had ten native children in the parsonage visiting with us. We made popcorn and they stayed for a couple hours.

We all wore felt nametags in the shape of animals. One young man who teaches Yu'pik named each of us according to our tags or

something we like. Mike, a carpenter, was named Multuuk (moo(II)duke) for "hammer." Dan, who plays the guitar and sings, was named Aturta (aw-do (r)-ta) or "singer." Whitney was bird, Yaquulek (yaw-(q)oo-le(q)) because she had a duck nametag.

An adult Bible study class was held with nine students the first night. Six are continuing studies with Jim Bingman from Dillingham. The class wanted Jim to fly over to Togiak every evening for studies, but finally settled for three times a week.

We now see a vast mission field right here in our own country. Alaska has over 200 native villages thirsting for a knowledge of Christ. The people we have encountered are eager to learn and a few are preparing for baptism.

We have been invited to two additional villages next year. If you have a group of ten staff and Pathfinders that would like to have a mission experience in Alaska, please contact Fran Hansen. ([mikefran@mchsi.com](mailto:mikefran@mchsi.com) or 417-742-4154)

You will never forget the time you give helping others learn about Jesus

Fran Hansen

AWA Youth Ministries Coordinator  
IA-MO Pathfinder Area Coordinator

Bethel, our home away from home, is a town of 6,000 people. One hundred and fifteen children waited for the Vacation Bible School Team to arrive. The VBS team had 6

days of Bible Puppet skits, nature nuggets, health messages, games, snacks, action memory verses and crafts. Try planning a Vacation Bible School in Alaska! You will be blessed by children's gleaming eyes as they sing, by their enjoyment taking home gifts they made and sharing the stories told by puppets Daniel and Hannah.

*Come Meet Jesus* was the theme. It was rewarding when the children repeated the bible story presented the day before. The children were shy on the first day, but as the love of Jesus was shared, they expressed their love. They wanted to sit near or on our laps or help up front and not miss a single thing. We found the snacks and drinks were

Mike Hansen, Jenny Spilger, Allison Haney. Allison wants to be a mission pilot.



the only food some had to eat or drink that day and VBS did not start until 3:00 p.m.

Some children are locked out of their homes and don't know where any of their family members are, including their parents. Jesus said, "If you have fed the least of these, you have fed me." Sharing with the children is sharing with Jesus. The VBS team also taught at the Teen Center, Summer School and volunteered at the local hospital and clinic. One evening they counselled a very troubled youth.

The team painted the church railings and wheel chair ramp. They outdid themselves painting a dumpster with the AWA yellow Pathfinder airplane on it with the words, "Flying on God's Mission."

Come join the VBS team, experience a new culture and meet those eager to know Jesus.

Kathy Rowe

Team Leader at Bethel  
Macon, MO Church

This trip has given me many experiences to tell others about, including lifestyles. Every time I think about the little kids, I think of their smiles and how dirty their clothes and skin were. It makes me appreciate all the things I am lucky enough to have.

It is a great feeling when you are able to



communicate with the kids. I will always remember the first day. We did a song with lots of movement and one of the younger ones who had groaned about singing said, "Hey, that song wasn't that bad. It was kind of fun!"

On every mission trip my walk with God grows stronger. I feel God has blessed me to be able to learn more about Yu'pik culture while teaching children the good news found in the Bible.

I thank God every day for allowing me to experience this trip, and I cannot wait until next year.

Misty Rowe  
Bethel Team  
Macon, MO Church

June 1, 2003 is a day I will never forget. Twenty Pathfinders met at the Kansas City Airport to go to Alaska. Only five of us had been there last year.

Once we arrived in Anchorage we took our tremendous amount of luggage to the academy and started dividing our supplies - half for Togiak and half for Bethel. We ate supper. Those with a 6:00 flight to Bethel the next morning took showers and got some shut-eye.

Arriving in Bethel, we unpacked our supplies and practiced skits for our first VBS

that afternoon. What a hectic day that was.

This town touched my heart and, God willing, I will be back next year. From the response of the team, they will be back next year too. The bonding that took place made this year's mission trip a great success.

Joan Ideker  
Bethel Team  
St. Louis Central Church  
St. Louis, MO

Going to Alaska is the best opportunity given to me. I remember when my Pathfinder director, Jason Hansen, called me and asked if I wanted to go. I thought, "*wanted* to go? This doesn't sound like choice to me, I *have* to go!" I wasn't even sure where exactly I was going, but I was going to Alaska! I remember the many expressions I saw whenever I told people about my mission trip to Alaska. There were the "really?"s, the "that's cool"s, the "can I go with you?"s and best of all, "why are you going to Alaska? It's so cold up there" responses. Nevertheless, that did not stop my excitement.

Along with the *idea* of going to Alaska, I had to raise \$1,000 to actually *go*. At first I thought it was impossible to raise that amount of money in less than 5 months: however, my church family proved me wrong. In a couple

months, my director told me that everything was covered...I was actually going to Bethel, Alaska!

The eleven days were awesome! The people I befriended were unforgettable, and the things I experienced were splendid! From trying to get used to the time difference to the midnight sun, to the expensive prices in the stores, to the lifestyle of the people, things could not have been more interesting. Luckily we had our cameras. Pictures of people, villages, mountains, glaciers, waters and even of "1:00 AM" in Bethel were taken practically every day.

Without the wonderful members on our team, and the endless support of Tom and Pam Wallenfelsz in encouraging the kids to come, things would not have gone so smoothly.

Leaving Alaska and the friends we made was the saddest part of all. Even the weather agreed. It began to rain the day of our departure. The individuals in our groups developed exceptional friendships.

Lydie Theodor  
Bethel Team  
St. Louis Southside Church  
St. Louis, MO



Arts and Crafts at  
Vacation Bible  
School.

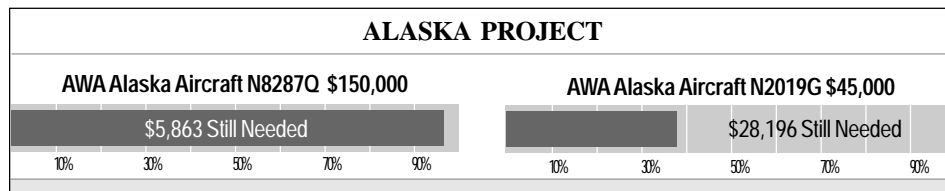


Pathfinder rendition of Pathfinder Plane on dumpster in Bethel, AK

This has been an awesome experience because when I grow up I want to be a missionary pilot and OB Doctor. When you come back home, you really appreciate things, like being able to sleep in a real bed and having some privacy. We take so much for granted!

Jenny Spilger  
Togiak Team  
Muscatine, IA Church

To view or download a PowerPoint slide show featuring the Pathfinder trip to Alaska log onto <http://www.tagnet.org/iamopathfinders/mission-trips/> and then click on Alaska trip.



# GUYANA:

## what would it be like to live in the interior?

Imagine with me for a moment that you were transitioning from your life to jungle life. What would it be like?

First of all, imagine multiple 365 day camping trips strung together. No electricity, no computers or Internet, no TV, no VCRs or DVD players, no modern lighting, no kitchen conveniences...in fact, everything you ate would have to be made from scratch because there wouldn't be any grocery stores at your disposal. There would be no consistent communication with the outside world because there are no telephones or newspapers delivered to your doorstep and no one would bring your mail on a regular basis.

Your home might resemble something like the picture in this article. A thatched roof to protect you (sort of) from the rain. Of course, there would be no plumbing or running water so nature calls would mean, well, contact with nature!

Now along with the above scenario, what if you got sick from malaria, snake bites, intestinal disorders or one of the many other maladies available in Guyana. What would you do?

Depending upon where you lived in the interior you would need to walk or be carried for days or even weeks to the nearest medical facility. You would navigate muddy trails, traverse dangerous rapids punctuated by waterfalls, be constantly exposed to the elements as well as potentially dangerous animals such as jaguars and poisonous snakes. What if it was your son or daughter who was sick and needed medical attention? How would you feel? Anxious? Scared?

Thankfully, most of us will never live in these conditions because God has blessed us with a different life. However, this is life for many Amerindians in Guyana.

Now, imagine a different scenario. Suppose that you had a radio in your village where, if a tragedy happens or someone needs medical attention, you could simply call someone to come to the rescue.



Suppose there was an airplane available that could transport you to a hospital in minutes instead of days or weeks.

Imagine if you were born in Guyana's interior and lived in daily fear of what the spirits might do to you and your family if you didn't appease them. Constant fear...what would that be like? Think of the joy that would come to your heart if you learned that the one God who created all things loved you and was more powerful than all the spirits. This God sent His only Son so that you could spend eternity with Him. Would that make a difference in your life?

Friends it isn't about airplanes or radios – it's about people. Planes and radios make it possible for missionaries to share the good news of freedom in Jesus and experience the quality of life that results. Our purpose is not to change culture but simply to provide the infrastructure that allows the Gospel to be conveyed by Amerindian believers themselves. They have the desire. They have asked us to help.

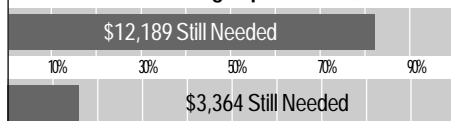
Won't you help us get there?

### GUYANA PROJECT



Marcio & Jane Costa

**Costa Launching Expenses \$68,418**



**Costa Monthly Support \$3,974**

**Project AirPower Aircraft/Equipment \$185,000**



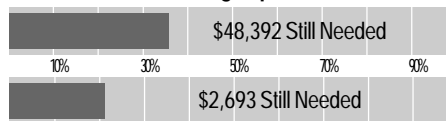
\* \$250 per month per village will provide air and communications services to Bible workers in one of the 56 unreached jungles villages in Guyana.

### Missionaries



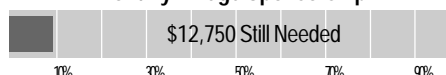
Bill and Laura LaBore

**LaBore Launching Expenses \$74,819**



**LaBore Monthly Support \$3,419**

**Monthly Village Sponsorship\***





# Around the World in 60 seconds

## Alaska

Years of planning, prayer and hard work are paying off. Jim Kincaid, AWA Project Manager writes, "I have attached a picture of the 206 in the paint shop... We felt we needed to jump on the opening even though we were not quite ready financially... I borrowed \$10,000 personally to pay for the paint and interior... We are still raising money to cover that so please make it a matter of prayer.

We launched the 206 last Sabbath (July 5) with a flight to Dillingham. Five people conducted four worship services in three native villages and one fishing camp. ***The airplane was received with enthusiasm!***

This week and next it is carrying four Literature Evangelists to bush villages on the Kobuk River in northwest Alaska with Jonathan (Kincaid) as the chief pilot... The goal is to visit every house in as many as 20 villages between July 6 and July 20. We plan to make this an annual summer project... We also have a youth group going to the village of Shungnak during that time. It is wonderful to have it ready... It really looks good and flies good as well. I started putting the radios in last Thursday and was done by sundown on Friday. It is well equipped... Jim

In 1997 Jim first presented a plan to AWA for the acquisition, rebuilding and operation of a wrecked Cessna 206. The plane was purchased in 1999 and has seen a host of volunteer laborers including Gary Marsh and John Payne. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Editors Note: *The fact that Jim Kincaid, himself a pastor, went out on a limb financially to get the plane in the air is a testimony to his dedication to the project and the tremendous need for air transport in Alaska!*

## Guyana


Prayers continue on behalf of the Guyana Conference, Wings for Humanity Volunteer Center and AWA missionaries preparing to deploy to Guyana.

## Philippines

Miracles never cease!

In the midst of agonizing over whether the tools/equipment line item should be cut from the Philippine aircraft launching budget in order to facilitate a more rapid deployment, God stepped in.

On July 3, Don Starlin, Clifton Brooks and Andy Klein were invited by a tool dealer to walk through his inventory and select anything they thought they might need for the project!

All three considered it one of the most exciting days of their lives. They drove away with a pickup truck and tandem axle trailer filled with tools and equipment worth \$7,000 – all donated! Praise God! 



206 before paint



206 after paint

# The Ministry Within

by Marcio Costa

All Christian missionary aviation agencies are looking for missionary pilots and mechanics. AWA is no exception.


When Project AirPower began we accepted the challenge of involving Pathfinders in a missionary aviation venture. Without realizing it, God was beginning something that will have increasing impact on missions and our church.

As the project developed, the youth became excited working on the airplane, raising funds, buying shares; it was a tremendous experience. After the airplane went to Guyana, we started visiting Pathfinders in their home churches and at camporees around the country. Those who remain in the church already hold offices and participate in church business decisions.

For some of these young men and women Project AirPower was a turning point in their lives. Even more amazing is that it had the same effect on their parents.

What a beautiful ministry — to have a part in presenting to the young people of our church the needs that exist in missionary aviation! We praise God that we have been used to touch lives.

We now realize that a ministry like Project AirPower could mean much more to us than what we first comprehended. Demonstrating the needs and challenges of missions not only brings awareness to the youth of opportunities to be involved in their church, but it can also nourish a genuine desire for them to serve God as missionaries.

We are eager to see a new generation rise above the snares of this world: coming forward, willing to dedicate their lives to God's cause wherever they go. 



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AWA has been involved with the International Association of Missionary Aviation for about eight years. Every annual conference turns out to be a mountain top experience of fellowship with those who provide logistical support to front-line missionaries.

Challenges faced by the missionary aviation community reflect the times. Discussions and seminar topics include security and safety, communicating the needs of the mission agencies to the schools, new technology, financial challenges and mentoring a new generation of missionary aviation specialists.

Steve Saint, son of Nate Saint, Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilot and one of five missionaries speared to death in the jungles of Ecuador by the Waodani Indians in 1956, shared his moving testimony of God's plan to reach the Waodani. The warriors who murdered the missionaries eventually learned that the foreigners were armed with superior weapons but did not use them because they would rather die than harm the people God sent them to

reach. This concept of grace was so powerful that it broke down barriers to the Gospel. In a society where over 60% of the deaths were homicides, the power of the Gospel reduced the murder rate by 90% in only two years. Now the Waodani are taking "God's carvings" to other tribes around them.

Steve reminded us of Joseph's admonition to his brothers after the death of Jacob, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20. Tamenta (son of the man who speared Steve's father) presented a pig's tooth necklace to IAMA President, Al Meehan. The necklace was presented as a symbol of thanks to all missionary aviators who share how to "walk God's trail."

Missionary Maintenance Services in Coshocton, OH reported the results of a survey conducted in July 2002. Fourteen missionary aviation agencies and four schools that train for missions responded to the survey. The results confirm what we've felt for a long time. Missionary agencies indicated a projected need for 93 more mechanics than

the schools expect to graduate through 2005.

According to Bruce Wolff, Director, Brigade Air, "Mission Aviation Fellowship can no longer provide air service into approximately 40% of the airstrips once served in Indonesia. Airstrips are in villages where indigenous people live, and they remain unreached. New Tribes Mission also provides aviation support in Indonesia. Two of their three bases are unmanned as well."

None of this has caught God by surprise however. We have been praying for years that the Lord of the harvest would furnish more workers. It appears that He has been at work! Stay tuned for news on the first-ever missionary aviation degree in the SDA educational system!

*Don Starlin*  
President



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FLIGHT LOG ➔

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