

FLIGHT LOG



Fall 2003

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 4

AWAY **G O D** AWAY **I S F A I T H F U L**



Andy and Clif load a box into the Philippine project plane.

N 5 8 6 3 6

Headed for the Philippines



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PANSY M. RUDDLE
DAVID GATES
MY SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST
JESUS OUR SAVIOUR
AND IN MEMORY OF ALL ABUSED CHILDREN
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CHRISTIAN MARTIN'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS
OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST
ALTA, ROD AND NANCY SZASZ
HATTIE WRIGHT



Vol. 9 No. 4
Fall 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:

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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 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.

ALASKA PROJECT

AWA Alaska Aircraft N8287Q \$150,000

Completed - Thank You!

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

AWA Alaska Aircraft N2019G \$45,000

\$26,955 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

To All Our Donors and Prayer Partners:

We Pray that God blesses you more than you have blessed us!

Hurray! Pushing the Bird from the Nest...

by Andy Klein

Hurray! We finally pushed the fledgling out from where it was hiding in the corner of the hanger. Once we got the dust washed off it even looks good again. Yes, it flies like it's supposed to. The additions to the airframe; the jump door, fueling steps and refurbished interior all make this a full grown mission bird.

We found a few details that had to be remedied before we head west to the Oakland California area and a shipping container. Radio troubles (seems we had a blown diode in Nav/Com 2) effectively shut down our Instrument Flight capabilities. Thank-



Left: The N58636 with all the modifications.
Below: Andy Checking seats and controls.



The N58636 as purchased before the modifications.



Below: The interior without seats.



Labor of love:
interior
specially
upholstered
seats by
Pam Rossi.



fully that is taken care of now and all I have to do is reassemble all that came apart to fix the Nav/Com and replace the ADF cable. We are now scheduled to leave Nov. 5th.

God has really brought all of this about, He is blessing, in His own time and His own way, changing each of us as we go. Now we are praying that the mechanical bird He gave us will be the blessing to the work in the Philippines that we envisioned at the start. Although this is a milestone, we've really only just begun the journey.

I've learned a little about faith and a lot about my lack of it! I could say the same about patience and perseverance too. This world is not my home, Praise God, and "That Glorious Land" is now closer than it ever has been. Let us keep our lights burning as The Groom approaches His Bride's home, we should be excited, I'm sure He is!

PHILIPPINES PROJECT



Clifton and Cynthia Brooks

Brooks Launching Expenses \$65,560

Complete - Thank You!

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$557 Still Needed

Brooks Monthly Support \$3,959



Andy Klein

Klein Launching Expenses \$31,761

\$14,187 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$2,223 Still Needed

Klein Monthly Support \$2,620

Airplane/Operating

Aircraft/Equipment Launching Budget \$283,766

\$22,344 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.



Laura working on her instrument rating.

FAITH EXERCISE

by Bill Labore

Over the last four years, God has prepared Laura and I for Guyana. Along the way, we have seen obstacle after obstacle that would have caused us to give up long ago if not for God's call. I enjoy being a sales rep and Laura enjoys nursing. Both of us could be content pursuing successful careers at home if it weren't for the relentless feeling that God has called us to be partners with Him in reaching the unreached.

Jesus invited Peter and Andrew, "follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt 4:19 KJV. The next verse records the amazing response, "...they straightway left their nets (their means of employment or career), and followed him." That required faith exercise. In the same way physical ex-

ercise makes us stronger, faith exercise strengthens us spiritually. The ever-practical James wrote "...faith if it hath not works, is dead..." James 2:17.

Perhaps the hardest thing about receiving a call from God is determining whether it is His voice or our own inclination! God doesn't typically appear and tell us "I want you to go there!" However, God does communicate through circumstances, His Spirit, Scripture and through others. When we are obedient to God's call He assumes responsibility for the completion of His work. Tuition for school or training is paid for unexpectedly. Prayer is sometimes answered dramatically. Funds arrive at the time and in the exact amount to meet a particular need. One

of our favorite authors makes the following observation:

"Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, 'Go forward.' We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, Let us wait till the obstructions are removed,



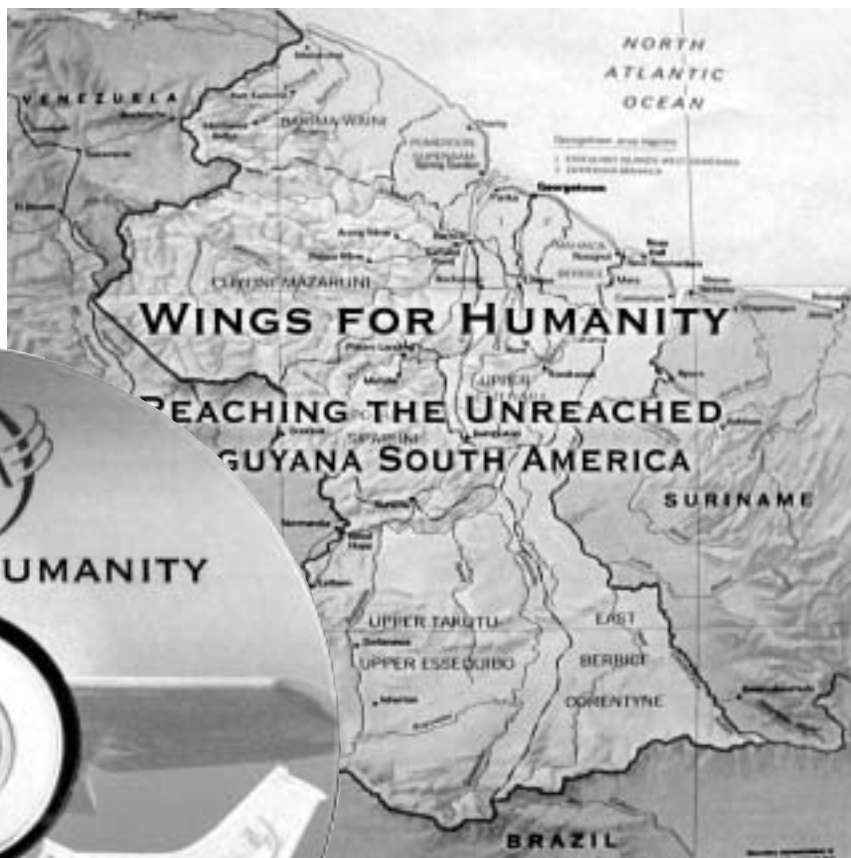
and we can see our way clearly; but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.” Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 290.

Exercising faith is powerful though often daunting. Jesus tells us that “...if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” Luke 17:20 NKJV What an awesome promise!

The Lord has accomplished a number of things through “faith exercise” this year. One of those is a new nine minute promotional video called “*Wings for Humanity: Reaching the Unreached in Guyana, South America*”. Bill had never

worked with a Macintosh computer or the complex **Final Cut Pro** video software. Convicted that the project needed audiovisual representation, Bill exercised faith and launched into the project. Six months of study, work and prayer later it is completed! We hope to post the video on the AWA Website/Guyana Project/LaBore Family page. Feel free to visit us at www.flyawa.org.

Another exercise in faith is Laura’s move toward instrument flight training! The Instrument rating and Commercial pilot license are prerequisites for deployment to Guyana next fall. If any of you would like to help Laura achieve this important milestone, it would be an answer to prayer. In the coming months, we invite you to join our spiritual exercise class. We know from experience that you won’t be disappointed with the results!



Above: the Wings for Humanity DVD jewel case cover.

Left: the Wings for Humanity DVD



In the Fullness of Time

by Clifton Brooks

The night was spectacular. The moon was bright in the cloudless sky as I pulled the plane out of the hangar. I had already completed the preflight. The night air was chilly, but calm—perfect for flying.

Climbing into the cockpit, I strapped my on headlamp and reoriented myself with the layout of our Skylane.

My last flight in this airplane had been a swell ride back from the ASI convention in Columbus, Ohio in August of 2002. (The logbook confirmed it had been exactly one year and two months before.) Shortly after that trip my family and I had boarded a commercial flight bound for the Philippines.

It had been so long since the plane and I had been airborne, but if there was ever a time to spread wings and fly it was that night. Cool...clear...and calm.

I bowed my head for my preflight prayer. "Lord, what a privilege to be able to fly your airplane again. Please give me proficiency and safety as I fly."

With the preflight checks completed, I opened the window and called, "Clear

Soon we will be flying to the Port of Oakland, California where the plane will be dismantled, containerized, and shipped. It seems as though everything is happening so quickly now. There isn't time for me to catch up with the whirlwind.

It is good to recall how God has brought us to this point. When Cyndi and I came back to the States in June, we were discouraged with the amount of time and work involved with launching the plane and the seeming static nature of the process. We,

Andy, Don and Cliff unload the donated maintenance equipment.



The launching goal isn't quite complete, but God provided such a response that we can't help but see that He is at work. We are moving forward, planning in faith that He will supply the resources for the remaining tools, spare parts, shipping container and for initial

Cliff, Andy and Don install the cowl on God's plane.



Finished!

along with other AWA staff, prayed specifically that God would reveal His will for sending the plane and provide the necessary funding. We worked, planned, watched, and waited.

God was at work the whole time. We

hangarage and startup costs.

Lord willing, by the time you read this, Andy Klein and I will have flown the plane to California. New fuel tanks will be installed in the wings after removal from the fuselage for shipping. We will return to Michigan where Cyndi and I will pack our family for the December 1 departure for the Philippines. The plane should arrive in the Philippines in January.

Cyndi and I have been encouraged through this process. We have seen God at work and have assurance in His leading. We have renewed faith to face the future. Please continue to pray for our family and the project as we go into the next phases of getting the airplane into the country and starting operations in support of frontier missionaries.

Please pray with us that God's will and timing will be fulfilled throughout this complicated process.

Prop"! The engine fired immediately and purred as I sat watching the gauges.

"It always has been a smooth running engine," I thought to myself as I taxied out.

With application of full throttle the plane jumped into the air. We were airborne again, the plane and I, preparing to fly on God's mission in the Philippines.

It has now been a week since that night. My logbook shows over thirteen hours of time in the plane since then.

watched as He demonstrated His will. First, AWA's Board voted to give priority to the Philippines project. Then, many of the necessary shop tools were donated to meet the maintenance needs. All along, in response to the call of God, so many generous supporters provided the funds necessary for preparing and shipping the airplane. God was showing us that "the fullness of time" had come.



God's Dream Unfolds!

Adapted from an article by George Hopper and Greg Thompson

Members of the Kalamazoo (MI) Church are responding to an invitation from God to be part of an amazing mission story. Greg Thompson, an Australian pilot and flight instructor is now the new Chief Pilot for Adventist World Aviation (AWA). One major assignment: construct a curriculum to train pilots specifically for environments in developing nations. This program, the first of its kind for an Adventist institution, and one of only a few in Christendom, already bears the mark of Divine blessing.

The Thompsons are no strangers to aviation. Greg has worn the title Chief Pilot for other companies and has trained pilots for airlines and air forces of more than fifteen nations to fly everything from single engine Cessna's to Boeing 747's. His wife, Angie, flew for a company in New Zealand working out of beaches and sheep pastures. When Greg, Angie and their two daughters moved to the U.S. in 1998 to train commercial pilots for foreign airlines at Western Michigan University (WMU), they had no family here – natural or spiritual. Angie began attending the Net 98 evangelistic meetings in Kalamazoo and eventually convinced Greg to join her. Both were baptized in April 1999, the same day AWA delivered a stirring presentation about the challenges of reaching earth's inhabitants with the story of salvation.

Over the next five years, God added two more daughters to the family. Hard times for the airline industry caused WMU to close its international training department and Greg was given notice of termination effective June 30, 2003. As job leads failed to pan out and the deadline neared, it looked like the Thompson family would have to return to Australia.

God had other plans!

A series of providential promptings moved Greg to discuss the Great Gospel Commission and aviation needs with Don Starlin, president of AWA. As the two compared the Thompsons' life experiences with the direction God seemed to be leading AWA, all came under growing conviction that God was orchestrating something none of them anticipated. On June 28, 2003, Don spoke about missions at the Kalamazoo Church and challenged the members to consider the evidence that God was calling them to sponsor a missionary family from among their ranks to train the next generation of missionary aviators, which in turn, would play a role in reaching 800 million of earth's still isolated inhabitants. Sensing that

the hand of God was at work, the church came alive.

On July 12, Don was invited back to explore the implications of such a project. In a short afternoon presentation, he revealed the behind-the-scenes story to the church members, relating a series of recent events signifying more than mere coincidence. He shared how an invitation to address the aviation students at Pacific Union College (PUC) in October 2002 had resulted in meetings with the departments of Aviation and Technology as well as with the President. Simultaneously, aviation majors at PUC were spending many of their Friday evenings discussing their mission in aviation after graduation. Soon, numerous small groups began inquiring what it would take to design a missionary focused program to prepare graduates for mission aviation careers in developing countries. Don submitted a proposal for a missionary avia-



Greg, Angie, Sara, Keryn, Danielle, Joellie Thompson

tion-training curriculum but remained cautious since this dream would require a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified aviation maintenance school. When asked what it would cost to put a program like that together he responded, "at least a million dollars, maybe two" – definitely a God-size project.

Beginning in January, 2003 the PUC Aviation Program created detailed course outlines and class schedules after receiving strong verbal support from the local FAA authorities. Lab and classroom space was located on campus, including the necessary metalworking, woodworking, and machine shop equip-

ment. The FAA expressed pleasure about the idea of an Airframe & Power plant (A&P) school and volunteered to assist in acquiring the aviation-specific equipment. Through government surplus contacts, a Huey helicopter and a T-28 Trojan were acquired. Ground support equipment is promised to arrive from various sources as soon as the labs can be cleaned and repainted. PUC's Curriculum and Efficiency Committee is currently studying the feasibility of offering an emphasis in mission aviation, and if there will be sufficient funding for the A&P certificate program. Recently a Christian missionary organization offered to make available some of its one half million dollars worth of aircraft training tools and equipment, provided the new mission aviation proposal is adopted. In addition, a local businessman has offered to donate back to PUC a beautiful hangar that was recently constructed at the Angwin Airport.

God brought the Thompsons to the Kalamazoo Church, then to AWA with just the right experience at just the right time. Two key hurdles had to be overcome for the plan to work. The Thompsons needed both a salary and a visa to work for AWA.

Greg and Angie were committed to step out in faith like Abraham. Don appealed to the members' sense of urgency in fulfilling the Great Commission, while affirming that mission-oriented churches tended to prosper despite the sacrifice. The response was overwhelmingly favorable.

Church leaders kept the matter before the congregation over the next several weeks. Greg and his family could only shake their heads in wonder at God's unfolding plan. As this article goes to press, pledge totals are about 40% of what is needed to keep the Thompsons afloat. With ongoing financial and spiritual support from fellow church members and others, the Thompsons are encouraged. On October 17, AWA was notified that the Immigration and Naturalization Service granted Greg a three-year visa to work as a missionary for AWA! Yet one more miracle!

Over the next four to six months Greg will develop an operations manual and set pilot standards. As Chief Pilot he will train missionary pilots and mentor them for short periods in the mission fields to which they are assigned. The first overseas assignment includes operations and procedures training with Clifton Brooks in the Philippines. His family will be busy as well. Angie is currently home schooling her children and working full-time as Mom. She hopes to resume flight duties also. It seems God has seen fit to move mightily among us. Truly, with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27).

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

As I look over the year's events one thing comes to mind —
God's Faithfulness.

As we review God's work in our lives this holiday season, I am struck by what He has done for all of us this year. Every project has been blessed.

Alaska has two AWA planes in operation. Iowa/Missouri Pathfinders made substantial enough impact over the last two years that there is talk of building a church in Togiak next summer.

The VersaFund came through early in the year to prepare the Pathfinder plane for return to

Guyana. Laura is well on her way to having an instrument rating while Bill completed AWA's first personal project video. Marcio completed an instrument rating and is working on an interactive missionary aviation program for the Faith on Fire Pathfinder Camporee next August in Oshkosh, WI.

The Philippines project has ten two-way radios in place and a runway is under construction in Kamantian, Palawan. By the time you read this, the plane will be in a container bound for the Philippines.

Friend, I have it on authority from the word of God that there is no greater cause than working along side God as

He builds His kingdom. Your contribution to mission pays eternal dividends. Your prayer and financial partnerships are rock-solid investments. Thieves can't steal them. Moths won't eat them. Rust can't destroy them. Souls won to the kingdom as a result will enjoy your friendship through our eternity.

Make no mistake: God will finish what He has started! Come join us.

Sincerely,

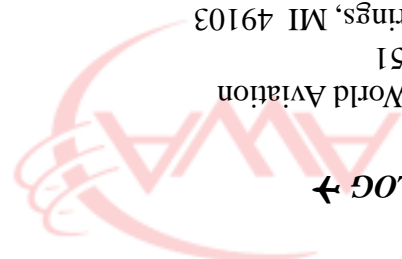
Don Starlin
President



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