

FLIGHT LOG →

SPRING 2007

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13 No. 2

FOR THE FRIENDS OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION



Jim Holdeman gives rides to participants of a week-long youth camp with aviation educational activities.

Dare to be Different!

by Jim Holdeman

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them..." Ephesians 2:10.

Ever notice that in attempting to be different almost everyone ends up looking the same? I graduated from high school in 1970, when being different meant long hair, tight jeans with huge bell bottoms, and either sandals or penny loafers. "Different" soon became popular.

I built my first chopper in 1968. It was designed to be completely counterculture to motorcycles of the time - long springer front

end, rudely loud drag pipes, big engine, lightweight frame, lots of chrome, and airbrush work to rival a da Vinci painting.

Today, virtually every motorcycle manufacturer has a "chopper." There are even 'chopper' shows on TV! Dare to be different? How does one really do that?

God has not only dared us to be different, He has commanded us to be "in the world but not of it." Simple external conformance won't cut it because it's really a heart matter. Everything we say and do is a reflection of our character and the Kingdom to which we pledge loyalty.

Living a healthy lifestyle is one way we dare to be different. Barbara recently conducted a health seminar at the home of a Blackwell family, assisted by Amy and Chris Borchering and me. Several families attended the seven-week series.

Barbara and Amy taught the cause-and-effect of unhealthy lifestyle choices involving nutrition and environmental factors. Barbara brought in food samples and prepared several food items right there in the kitchen, demonstrating delicious ways to eat healthily. She also prepared a cookbook that proved to be popular with the participants.

(Continued on page 6)

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

AMATANGELO, SUE
ARNOLD, FLORENCE
ARZAGA, JESSE JR.
BAKER, PHILO
BOLES, HARRY B.
BROWN, RUSSEL T
CAMPBELL, NANCY
COUNCELL, ELDON
DANFORTH, JIM & GLORIA
DOWNEY, PAUL
DYER, FRED
FRAKES, J FRED
FRASER, HARRY
GENTILE, HECTOR
HABENICHT, BETH & LINDA JOY
HAMEL, BEA
HAYNOR, ARTHUR
HOLMAN, KIRSTEN
HOLMAN, KIRSTEN
HOOVER, HAROLD P.
KOUDELE, BETTY
KURTZ, JULIE
LOESSBERG, MR & MRS LIONEL
LUNGU, JOHN
MAPLES, ARTHUR & NELLIE
MORRIS, JANICE
NELSON, PASTOR SID & HOLLY
PAPENDICK, RAYMOND
RAMEY, MARGARET
SHOW, DAVID
STARLIN, JIM
STARLIN, JIM, & LARRY
TOPPENBERG, DAVID R
WILSON, DENNIS

DONOR

BY LEO & BOBBIE JANE VANDOLSON
BY P & D ARNOLD
BY PETE & LINDA VILLARREAL
BY REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME
BY CLARA A BOLES
BY DAVID W TOPPENBERG
BY FLORENCE M PAULK
BY CORINNE B COUNCELL
BY S F & M L PRIDE
BY MICHAEL & JILL DOWNEY
BY MERCEDES H DYER
BY FRANCIS W RUDDLE
BY HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
BY MARILYN COUSINO
BY LEONA G RUNNING
BY HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
BY RUTH E HUSTED
BY REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME
BY RICHARD T ORRISON
BY ESTHER P SHARPES
BY ROBERT & MADELINE JOHNSTON
BY HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
BY ALLENE CARPENTER
BY RICHARD T ORRISON
BY LEDA C SMITH
BY RICHARD MORRIS
BY DICK & CAROL HANSON
BY S F & M L PRIDE
BY MARILYN COUSINO
BY RICHARD & DOROTHY SHOW
BY CHARLENE STARLIN
BY HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
BY DAVID W TOPPENBERG
BY PASTOR EMIL & RUTH MOLDRIK

MISSION PILOTS WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE BY ANTHONY & MAGGIE BONILLA

IN HONOR OF

FOLKENBERG, ROBERT
KUEBLER, DAVE - BIRTHDAY
THE LORD JESUS
THE LORD JESUS
WELLINGTON, JASON - BIRTHDAY

DONOR

BY LAUREN & CHERYL MOULTON
BY REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME
BY ANN C S KERR
BY FERNANDO & RUTH MAQUILON
BY REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME



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SPRING 2007

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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 501(c)3 nonprofit missionary-sending agency. Funded by private contributions, AWA enables missionaries to reach the unreached around the world.

*We pray God's richest blessings on you
and yours for all the prayers and support
on behalf of mission aviation!*



New Feature!

When you see this symbol you can find more information online at:
www.flyawa.org

AFRAID TO ASK?

by Jud Wickwire

GOD PROVIDES IN SO MANY WAYS. ALL TOO often, we are blissfully unaware of how He is working around us, while at other times we are blown away by the grandeur of events that He is clearly orchestrating. At still other times, we are surprised at the simplicity of His help.

The GPS unit that I use in the plane is a Pocket PC with GPS software installed on it. (GPS – Global Positioning System – uses satellites to provide position information, ground track, ground speed, altitude, estimated time of arrival, airport and navigation-aid information, and a color moving map display that shows where you are on planet earth.) I acquired this new unit last fall after my old one failed. I was still figuring out some of the features on a trip up to northern British Columbia last fall. The unit worked fine on the way up, but when I went to make a flight the next day it wouldn't turn on. For the next few days, though I was flying in familiar territory and didn't need to use the GPS, I tried everything, including the reset button, to get the unit to power up. No matter what I did, I was only met with a frustratingly blank screen.

My flight back home would be 450 nautical miles over a lot of remote wilderness – a trip I have made many times before. I could find my way by using dead reckoning and map reading, so restoring the GPS was not essential, but it would be a tremendous convenience.

I was flying along on a short flight to refuel for the trip back, fiddling with the buttons on the unit, hoping that it would suddenly come to life. The thought flashed through my mind to pray about it. Pray about it? It just wasn't important enough to bother God with. I felt like I should save the prayer for something more worthy. But then, why not? So I prayed briefly, and then pushed the reset button like I had a hundred times before. The screen came to life and the unit powered up normally!

I shouldn't have been surprised at all. But I have to admit, I was. We have seen God provide for us in so many unexpected ways. He has answered prayers in ways bigger than we even asked for. He cares about all of the things that are happening in our lives. We shouldn't be afraid to ask Him for help – anytime, anywhere, for anything.

A Dell hand held GPS unit similar to the unit Jud has.



He is always listening. In fact, Jesus said, “your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8, NIV)

As I write I am surrounded by boxes. We are in the final stages of moving out of our house in preparation to head to Michigan for mission training and then on to Guyana. Yesterday, we went to our church to have our pictures taken for the directory. As we filled out the family information form, on the line asking our occupation, we wrote “Missionaries.” It is really happening! Please continue to pray that God will guide us as we prepare for doing His work in Guyana – we're confident that He is already answering your prayers. 🙏

Jud's Cessna 182D.



FLIGHT LOG

GUYANA PROJECT



Jud, Karen, Jacob, and Zachary Wickwire

Wickwire Launching Goal \$80,000 Canadian

\$35,000 Canadian Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$1,880 Canadian Still Needed

Wickwire Monthly Goal \$4,900 Canadian

U.S. contributors use enclosed envelope. Canadian contributors use Canadian address on page 2.

There is Nothing Like it!

by Chris Borcharding



Half of the group on the mountain top.

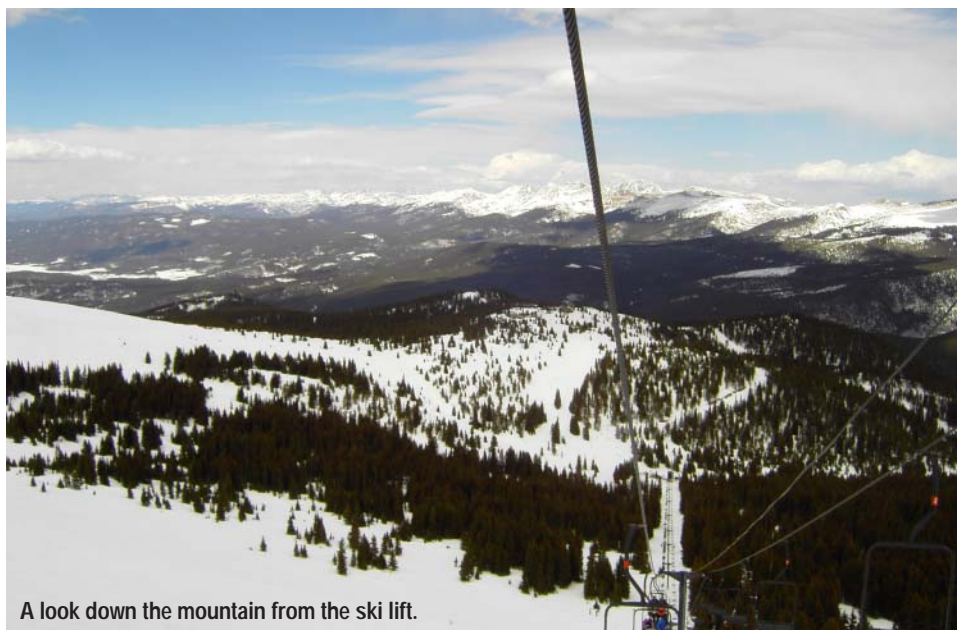
*The future is not guaranteed.
This is perhaps the only opportunity we have to intimately
acquaint them with Jesus.*



THE PREPARATIONS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE. As the new youth directors at the church in town, Amy and I are taking up our first major assignment: a biannual ski trip to Colorado. Last night we put the finishing touches on the devotional material. Now we need to print, pack, and drive.

As I think about the youth in our care, I am in awe of the responsibility we've been given. We have the distinct honor of personally knowing the King of the universe, and He wants us to explore His wonders with these young people. As I ponder each person, I'm struck by the fact that this is the only spring break of 2007 we get. Because the future is not guaranteed, this might be the only opportunity we have to help them get intimately acquainted with Jesus.

But then, I suppose *now* is all we ever have. From the moment of conception, each of us is on our way to eternity. Jesus says in John 6: 39-40 that His Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life. Because we don't know our future, or that of others, we are to choose **today** whom we will serve (Joshua 24:15). We influence others when we make that choice.



A look down the mountain from the ski lift.

We shouldn't be overwhelmed with the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19-20), because "it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure" (Philippians 2: 13). So, the commission is not insurmountable at all. All you really have to do is simply, "return to your own house,

and tell what great things God has done for you" (Luke 8:39).



Heading down the mountain.

*Because we don't know our future
or that of others, we are to choose **today** whom we will serve. (Joshua 24:15)
We influence others when we make that choice.*

We returned from our trip, having had fun and incurring no serious injuries! More important than that, though, is that we all learned something about responsibility, friendship, and love.

When working with youth, it's sometimes difficult to tell if you're getting through. Most of the time, there are few responses and a lot of blank stares. This can be disheartening at times. Then you get a candid comment where you don't expect

it, a simple encouragement affirming that you are making a difference.

After devotions on the last night of our trip, a young man in our group thanked me, saying that he's learned more in the last two months than he had in the last four years. Please pray for our youth, and for those who teach them. Ask the Lord of the Harvest where you fit into His plans. There are people in the world around *you* that God can only reach through you.

From one missionary-in-training to another, I want to encourage you to follow His lead and step out in faith. I guarantee you, you'll have to leave your comfortable pew, your recliner, maybe even your state or continent. But as soon as you do, you will see God's hand moving. Truly there is nothing like it! 🙌



FLIGHT LOG

First United Methodist Youth Fellowship. Amy and Chris are just behind the second row on the far right.

PHILIPPINES PROJECT

Missionaries in Training:
Chris and Amy

Borcherding Launching Goal \$93,578

Still Needed \$90,117

10%

30%

50%

70%

90%

\$4,190 Still Needed

Borcherding Monthly Support \$4,190

Dare to be Different

Continued from cover page.

Graduation evolved into a Sunday afternoon potluck with each family bringing a healthy entrée. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. Since then, most of the attendees have not only embraced the health message, but continue to host regular potluck dinners and share what they've learned with other friends and family.

God has been giving us success in assisting pilots to regain medical certificates. One of them, a Blackwell resident who is a captain for a major airline, recently called us for help with health changes after a physical exam indicated coronary problems. Information was exchanged along with another cookbook. This resulted in a great meal, additional ideas for lifestyle changes, and a Bible study.

These new friends are very active at their local church. Part of their outreach involves serving a free meal each week for disadvantaged folks in the area. After learning new diet principles from us, our friends observed that the meals they were providing, though they were given in love, were "killing" the people. Now the couple wants to make healthy meals for fifty-plus people.

A recently-retired airline pilot stopped in to inspect a Cessna 172 we had for sale. He wanted to buy the airplane but health issues prevented him from flying. Another opportunity! Barbara designed a shopping list and menu guide that would lead toward restored health. This pilot is now making the recom-



Jim Holdeman makes a presentation.

mended lifestyle changes so he can secure his medical certificate.

The Ponca City Aviation Booster's Club, an enthusiastic group of pilots and aircraft owners, invited us to make a presentation at their March meeting. After a 20-minute overview of B-T Aviation Services' role in the community and in mission aviation, we showed a video produced by Bill LaBore while Laura was preparing for deployment to Guyana. They really enjoyed what we had to share and a lively question-and-answer time followed. Several of the members asked if we would make similar presentations in their respective churches.

The Club also sponsors the Northern Oklahoma Aviation Academy, a week-long youth camp with educational activities, including airplane rides. Last year the club flew 49 kids. This year over 60 have signed up! The club broke into enthusiastic applause when we announced that B-T Aviation would provide three airplanes for the event. Barbara and I will also act as flight simulator instructors for the Northern Oklahoma Aviation Academy. The Aviation Booster's Club wants to have us back in the near future to share the health message with an even larger audience of pilots and their families.

We challenge you to "dare to be different." Like Daniel and his three friends, healthy lifestyle choices cause us to stand out in a crowd and provide a legitimate platform from which to help those around us.



Barbara and Jim Holdeman (right) share a copy of the *Flight Log*.

Farewell Andy



*The wise man writes that,
"for everything there is a season."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

Andy Klein joined AWA in the stormy formative years and participated in a range of projects helping to rebuild the Pathfinder plane for Guyana, launching N2019G to Alaska, preparing the Philippines airplane for deployment and holding the fort in Blackwell, OK until reinforcements could arrive – all firsts for AWA.

Just as seasons shift from the turbulent newness of spring to the increased heat and tempo of summer, so organizations and their projects evolve necessitating staff with various skill sets to meet the demands of ongoing operations. At the same time Andy's exposure to the vast opportunities for ministry in the Philippines awakened a desire to meet a variety of needs outside AWA's mission and so the season has come when we must say, "Farewell, Andy."

We will never forget your contributions and the many lives impacted as a result of your time with us. Thank you!

And to the generous donors who made it possible for Andy to conduct ministry through AWA, we and the people we serve are eternally indebted to you. Thank you! We encourage you to continue your support of AWA's Philippines Project. The work is far from finished.

Visiting our Friends

The Quiet Hour (TQH) makes a significant impact on missions. Among other things, God has given The Quiet Hour the distinction of helping place 56 mission planes in the field. In commemoration of the ministry's 70th Anniversary this year, TQH plans to do it again. A Cessna 182 is slated for the Philippines and a Quest Kodiak is intended for Papua New Guinea.

Michael Porter, CEO of The Quiet Hour and Don Starlin enjoyed visiting friends in Northern California surrounding a January committee meeting at Maranatha Volunteers Headquarters in Sacramento. One visit included lunch with the late Bill Baxter's wife Betty, daughter Dotsie and son-in-law Ernie Toppenberg. Food and mission stories flowed freely.



In appreciation for the Baxter's work in pioneering mission aviation, Starlin presented Betty Baxter with an AWA wings pin.



Porter and Starlin also shared a delightful meal with Marshall and Rose Horsman. The Horsman's kept the ministry representatives entertained with a family history harkening back to James and Ellen White's offspring, playing table tennis with Lucile Ball and a hilarious youthful encounter with former President Hoover.

Around the World in 60 seconds

Alaska

Don't miss the first ever **2007- North American Division "Fly-in Camp Meeting"**, July 18-22, 2007, at the Palmer, Alaska SDA Campgrounds located at .5 Maud Road, Palmer, Alaska! Join fellow pilots for camp meeting and subsequent Eskimo mission projects in Togiak, Savoonga, Selawik and Shungnak.

- Central Convoy leaves from Fargo North Dakota on Sunday morning, July 15 and is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, July 17.
- Western Convoy leaves from Spokane on Sunday morning, July 15 and is scheduled to arrive on July 16th. For more information go to www.alaskaconference.org.

Philippines

Looking to make a difference? AWA is recruiting personnel to expand support to frontier missionaries in other parts of the Philippines. The intent is to develop teams, each composed of a project manager, a senior pilot and chief mechanic. If you or anyone you know has a background suitable for cross-cultural aviation ministry contact AWA today.

Papua New Guinea

Adventist Aviation Services in Goroka, PNG is praising the Lord. AAS is working through the laborious process of bringing a new airplane into the country for the first time. Pacific Aerospace Corporation, LTD has notified AAS that the PAC 750XL turboprop aircraft is ready for delivery.

Boris & Grace Ambrus have joined the AAS team in Goroka consisting of Roger and Carol Millist, Linden Millist, Damon and Lisa Roberts. Boris served as a flight instructor at Avondale College and spent much of March converting Australian pilot licenses to the PNG variety. Grace pursues an MA in International Development Studies with hopes of joining the ADRA team in Goroka.

Kodiak Aircraft Project

Conforming production serial number 001 has joined the prototype Kodiak in FAA flight certification.

Though the Northwest Christian Community Foundation matching fund program was slated to have ended upon completion of certification and delivery of the first commercial unit, grace has been extended to AWA in the most important mission aviation project in history.

Matching incentives, now totaling \$1.5 million, for all four proposed AWA Kodiaks have been granted to AWA and placed on deposit with Quest Aircraft Company! For each \$375,000 deposit AWA makes with Quest, Quest will credit AWA with a matching amount bringing the total to \$750,000 at which point AWA will be assigned a Quest Mission Team serial number. Kodiak AWA001 has been designated serial number 150.

AWA KODIAK AIRPLANE #1 GOAL \$1,125,000				
NCCF Matching Grant		AWA Donors		+ \$375,000 Due on Delivery
\$730,698 Raised				\$394,302 Still Needed
16.5%	33%	50%	67%	83.5%

SURGERIES IN GEO

Laura Assists Remote Area Medical

by Bill and Laura LaBore

SINCE WE ARRIVED IN GUYANA IN SEPTEMBER 2005, Laura has twice assisted the Remote Area Medical (RAM) team with hysterectomies and other surgeries related to treating cervical cancer in the village of Lethem. A women's health team that comes twice a year asked Laura if she could assist again for this year's March trip. Due to the pending government approval of our flight operations, it was crucial that we remain in Georgetown, so we declined the invitation to work in Lethem. That's the bad news.

The good news is that Laura *was* able to help out with surgeries in Georgetown! Two of the RAM team members, Dr. Bill Irvine and Dr. Christie Wamhoff, spent three days operating at Georgetown Public Hospital before moving on to Lethem. When the team was in Guyana last October, Laura helped out with numerous pap smears and pelvic exams. The results were taken back to the States for evaluation. Those women who were identified as having serious complications

(i.e. cancer) were then flown to Georgetown for surgery.

Laura appreciated the opportunity to get an inside look at Georgetown Public Hospital. While there were moments of frustration, as American practices at times differed with Guyanese methods, the experience was unforgettable. Irritants to the doctors were taken in stride by Laura as just "life in Guyana." As with any developing country, everything moves at a snail's pace. Even the nurses responded slowly to the doctor's requests. Surgeries took longer, not only due to cultural differences but also because of the

lack of tools the doctors were accustomed to using in the States. But in the end, the doctors were good sports about it and adapted quickly!

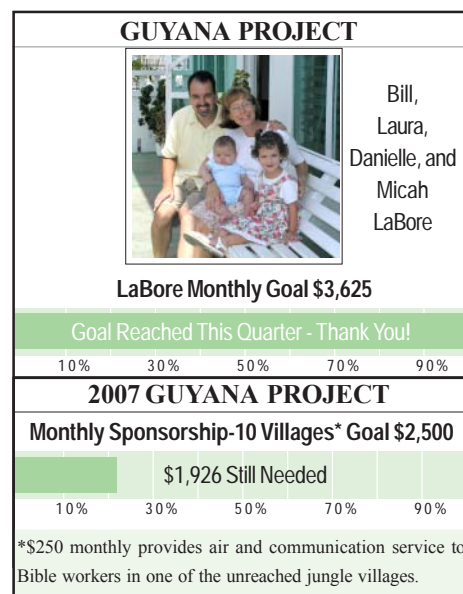
The first day, surgeries began at 9:00 a.m. and ran until 6:30 p.m. During the day, Laura started feeling sick; she actually passed out in the O.R. There's been a bug going around the city that at one time or another had affected our entire family (except Laura) with diarrhea and vomiting. Now it was Laura's turn. Although she'd done everything possible to stay healthy, there were just too many days of not enough sleep and too much activity to rest! She was up sick that night, so she couldn't help out in the O.R. the next day.

Although she worried that she would leave the team high and dry, it turned out well.

When the team showed up the next morning to operate, there were no anesthesiologists available! They called the Minister of Health for assistance, but he too was unable to find a single anesthesiologist in Georgetown to assist. They were all either sick with the same bug Laura had or were attending a training seminar! This complication prevented four patients from having their surgeries that



GEORGETOWN: Women's Health Team



Opposite page top: **Emergency Room entrance of the hospital.** Opposite page bottom: **Ladies waiting for surgery.**

Left and bottom: **Assisting Dr. Christie Wamhoff (Laura on the right).**

day. In fact, as we write, they are trying to re-schedule operations before the team heads back to the States.

All of this demonstrates the lack of resources here, including care providers. Some time ago, Laura took the opportunity to volunteer at a convalescent home in Georgetown. What she discovered was that there are only two psychologists in all of Guyana! One of them is from Cuba and speaks only Spanish! Many of the doctors and anesthesiologists Laura has met in Lethem or Georgetown have been from Cuba. She ended up interpreting for them on more than one occasion! When most Guyanese get degrees of any kind, such as "M.D.," they move to the States or Canada where they can make better money. That leaves a small number of in-country care providers for Guyana's population.

Laura was back on her feet for the third day of surgeries, though she was a little fatigued. She went to the hospital at 8 a.m. to assist and ended up staying until 10 p.m.! One surgery was performed on a skinny little lady. We'll call her Lisa. She looked like she was about 6 months pregnant, with the skin on her belly stretched tight over a large bump. When they opened her up, they found that one of her ovaries was the size of a basketball; the other one the size of a large softball. She hasn't been able to eat

because the ovary was so huge it interfered with her stomach. The tumors were cancerous, so when they removed the ovaries, they also removed her appendix and some lymph nodes. The surgery took six hours. It could have been faster with the proper tools, but we are glad that the Lord worked through us to reduce the pain. Because Lisa has AIDS, she may not live for long, but she will be more comfortable.

It was a blessing to learn more about cervical cancer procedures as we will likely encounter a lot of this in Region 1. The Amerindian women have an unusually high occurrence of the disease. Part of RAM's work in all this is to gather data and determine why the occurrence is so high. We are pleased to be able to assist them in their efforts. Thank you for helping us to be here to assist them!



DOWN UNDER

The Land of the Unexpected

by Roger Millist, CEO, Adventist Aviation Services, Papua New Guinea



December 2006
Hi Everyone,

IT'S SABBATH AFTERNOON AND I HAVE JUST COME back from a walk with the dog and thought I should give you an update. There is never a dull moment up here in the "Land of the Unexpected". Linden is down in Perth for his "mid-year" leave. We have a 50-hour service due on the plane on Monday, but I have one



of the MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) engineers to help me with that so we will be alright now till Linden gets back. The two other pilots have both been sick during the last two weeks so the "old Fellow" has been flying full time as well as trying to keep up with administration. Damon is back on deck again now and I think Trevor will be okay by Monday - he needs to be as his wife is flying up to check up on him Monday afternoon!

We have had a very rewarding year and proved once again the value of the flying program. In total we have flown over 840 hours - pretty good for nine months of operation. The stand-by aircraft which we have hired from Australia has done 200 of those hours.

Two Sunday's ago I opened a new airstrip out near Karimui called Pinero. It is only about 5 Nautical Miles (NM) from Karimui but over four hours walking. This was the first place Pastor Len Barnard visited when he walked in to the Karimui Plateau in 1962 - featured in the film clip from "Cry of New Guinea" which I think you all received with the 'Record' a couple of weeks ago. What a contrast compared with the shy, frightened,

suspicious cannibals that greeted Len! If ever there is a place that shouts of the difference the "Good News" makes, it is the Karimui District.

On Wednesday we had a call from Karimui to say that a young man had been badly injured when a tree fell on him and needed to be flown out to hospital. Unfortunately no one told me until I made a flight to Karimui the next day. The man was at Pinero but the story was a bit sketchy so I decided to investigate on the next flight. I rustled up a bit of freight to cover some of the cost of the flight.

When I got to Pinero they told me that they had given up and carried the guy to Karimui in

they were concerned I was still at Pinero when I took off to fly back from Karimui to Goroka. We live in the "Land that Forgot Time" not "The Land that Time Forgot"!

Anyhow, after about a 30-minute wait, the wheelbarrow appeared from the clinic with its stretcher patient aboard. He was in a lot of pain and couldn't stand up - they are pretty hardy. His pelvis was crushed but he still had feeling and movement in his legs. We placed him on a reclined seat and put his legs up on a couple bags of peanuts. Thirty minutes later we had him in the hospital in Goroka. All in a days work! There are not many days that we don't have at least one medivac with sick or injured patients.

On a lighter note the HF (H.A.M.) radio provides good entertainment most days - some of the guys in the remote strips enjoy 'having a chat on the radio'. Last week we took back the local village leader (also our agent) to Kapi. That is the short, high, 'aircraft carrier' airstrip. The next day he was on the radio telling us he had some bags of produce to come out, it took several minutes to tell us that, meanwhile all the other radio traffic is waiting. I proceeded to ask twice how many bags there were, whereupon he



Happy villagers at Pinero.

a wheelbarrow 'Ambulance'. I figured God had impressed me to make the second trip. If I had flown over to Pinero at lunch time on the first trip they would have been halfway between and I would have missed them.

I took off and flew to Karimui - four minutes from wheels-off to touch-down! So quick in fact that the flight service people never heard my radio calls. As far as



The village comes to celebrate the opening of the Pinero airstrip.



Kainantu is southeast of Goroka on the map.

mission station anywhere in the world. There are over 600 families living there. It is like visiting a small town in the USA. They have their own workshops, printing press, store, transport company and trucks, chemist, hospital, high school, primary school, radio station, computer and IT shop

launched into a five-minute story about everything that was happening in the village.

At the conclusion, Samson, my Loadmaster took the mic and asked him to tell us exactly how many bags there were so we knew how many flights to plan. The reply was another five-plus minute story about how his wife had gone to the garden etc, etc, by this time all the hangar staff was listening and rolling on the floor in tears of laughter. At the conclusion we gave up still none the wiser about how many bags there were!! The joys of communications in the 'bush'!!

Last Sabbath Carol and I flew down to Kainantu (a 16-minute flight, but one-to-two hour drive) to take part in the church service and lead out in the ordination of Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses from the Kainantu District. There were over 300 church officers there for a week of leadership training. Over 100 new Elders and Deacons were ordained. It is impossible for the District pastor to visit every church to conduct training and ordination for the local church officers so he decided to do it this way. It was a great day. We were really blessed.

Carol hadn't seen around the SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) compound at Ukarumpa so we went for a drive and visited some of the people we know there before flying home. I am told that it is the biggest

and repair facility, airstrip and maintenance facility etc, etc. They now operate their own direct flights to Cairns twice a week just to transport all their families around!!

A few weeks ago I was asked to preach at the dedication of a new church (Omena) out over the KawKaw gap. It is 18 km by air from Goroka, but took us well over two hours to drive. There had been heavy rain the night before so the rutted track - read 'road', was rather challenging. It took a couple of goes to get up a few sections. Linden was following me in his vehicle and we 'lost' him at one stage. When we walked back he had stopped at a gateway and it was so slippery that he hadn't been able to get traction to get going up the hill again. We had some visitors from Australia with us and it was the first time the (new) wife had ever been outside of Australia so she thought it was a great adventure to go 'bush-bashing by 4-wheel drive' for 2 hours just to get to church.

The Omena church has an interesting story. About two years ago a volunteer missionary walked to this village to run some meetings. There was a man (mentally disordered - "long-long") who was so angry at the Adventists coming into the area that he waited in hiding to attack the missionary. The man, with a bush knife, swung at the missionary's waist twice. Miraculously the knife went right through him without making a mark or cutting him in any way! The story spread and the next day the whole village came out to hear "the man who had been cut in half twice"!

The man responsible became very sick soon after and was completely incapacitated. The missionary and SDA members visited him, washed him, dressed his sores and gave him food. We visited him and his wife and took their photo with the missionary. We dedicated a new church with a zincalume roof donated by Australian members and baptised 14 people with another 37 indicating they wanted to be baptised. Miracles still happen and the gospel still transforms lives - that's what makes all the hard work here so fulfilling.

Regards, Roger



Above: (left) The man who attacked the volunteer missionary (right); left: Omena Church members; below: Omena baptismal candidates.



Cricket Finds a Cobra

by Cyndi and Clifton Brooks

OVER A YEAR AGO, CLIF AND CYNDI BEGAN praying that God would help them find a good dog—one that could guard the property and be a companion to the family while Clif was away on flights. After some searching, they found a little rottweiler puppy, whom they named Cricket. Ever since she came to live with the Brooks, they have prayed that she would become the dog they needed to help them on the mission compound.

At a very young age—about eight weeks—Cricket demonstrated an interest in snakes. She caught and ate a 20-inch grass snake bigger than she was.

Now more than a year old, Cricket is big and strong and full of energy. She enjoys surprising the chickens that fly over the wall and land in the yard. Unknown human visitors are hesitant to venture unannounced into the missionary compound, but Celeste and Carolina have a friendly

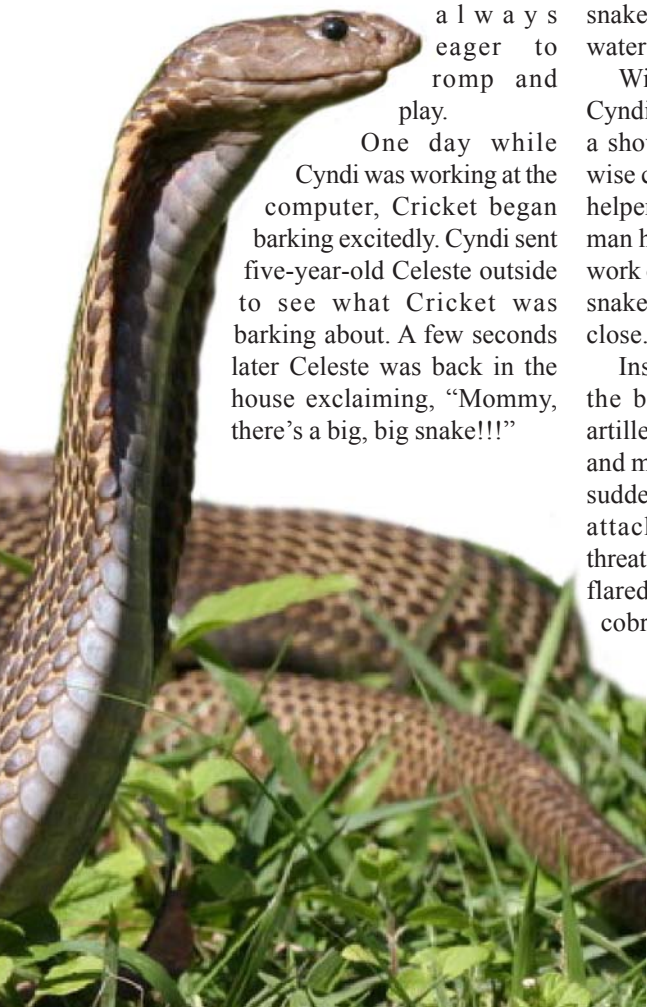



Sure enough, under the bedroom window was a five-foot-long dark-colored snake. Cricket was certainly excited. Fearing that the dog would be bitten, Cyndi called Cricket and tied her to the leash on the fence. The snake slithered over the yard towards the water tank.

With all of the missionary men away, Cyndi considered going after the snake with a shovel, but decided that might not be a wise course of action. She asked her house-helper to quickly find someone to help. A man had earlier arrived at the compound to work on an old boat. He took one look at the snake and exclaimed, “No! I won’t get that close. That is a very dangerous snake.”

Instead of close combat with a shovel, the boat repairman opened up with an artillery barrage of rocks. The snake hissed and moved, trying to avoid the rocks. Then suddenly it reversed tactics from retreat to attack; it turned toward the man and threatened him. It raised its wicked head and flared its neck wide—it was a Philippine cobra! This is one of the most poisonous snakes in the world—capable of spitting venom and blinding a target ten feet away!

Cyndi, Celeste, and Carolina took up safe positions in the rear to watch the battle taking place in the yard. The snake raised its head and bobbed forward. It flared its neck and hissed. Several large rocks found their mark. Soon the snake was no longer a threat. The repairman



PHILIPPINES PROJECT				
			Clifton, Cynthia, Celeste, and Carolina Brooks	
Brooks Monthly Support \$4,400				
Still Needed \$922				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
Monthly People Group Sponsorship* \$22,500				
\$22,463 Still Needed				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
*\$750 monthly provides air and communication service to missionaries working in one of 30 people groups.				

*\$750 monthly provides air and communication service to missionaries working in one of 30 people groups.

Note: Brooks budget is in process of revision to reflect a 20% decrease in the exchange rate and their growing family.

Missionary Airbase Development Budget

Phase I:	
Property acquisition, Survey, Legal work	\$100,000
Amount received	(100,000)
Phase II	
Drainage, Fencing, Runway construction	25,000
Flatbed crew and diesel truck	25,000
Amount received	(50,000)
Phase III	
Hangar/Residence, Water, Septic, Electrical systems	200,000
Total needed for all Phases	\$350,000

PHILIPPINES PROJECT				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
\$113,311 Still Needed				
Mission Airbase Development \$350,000				

cautiously approached the creature and made sure it was dead. He then picked it up with a length of pipe and threw it over the wall into the wooded lot next door.

The Brooks family truly believes that God has answered their prayers for a good dog. God is also answering your prayers by providing special protection for His missionaries. We look forward to sharing more stories of how God uses missionaries, Cricket, the airplane, volunteers, and donors to accomplish His work in the Philippines.

Thank you! Your prayers and financial participation really do make a difference!

Construction Underway in Sagpangan!

by Karen Robinson



Dave and
Karen
Robinson

HELLO FROM SAGPANGAN, PALAWAN, Philippines! We have joined AWA personnel on the airbase project. Back in December, Dave saw Don at church one Sabbath and mentioned that God was doing something in our lives – and well, perhaps it involved missions. Don responded, “You want to build an airbase in the Philippines?”

Dave has been in the construction industry for over 25 years and I have worked in Finance/Accounting for about 25 years as well. Build an airbase for mission airplanes serving a 175 mile radius - wow, what a thought! But also, wow what a decision!

Timing was critical due to the need to build and seed the airstrip before rainy season which begins sometime in May or June, with heavy rains falling in September and October. We learned the airbase would include airstrip, hangar/office, three residences, “kubo” (native style house) and a guesthouse. The commitment would be a 5-year term. Our first country survey trip however, would be for three months. We didn’t give AWA an answer right away as we had so much to think about; and most importantly - to wrestle with God over. After much prayer and recommended Bible study we decided this is where we need to be.

Our first priority upon arrival was to meet with the realtors and get an update on the last of the lots that need to be titled to AWA. One of the properties is owned by Mr. Alsa, a wonderful elderly gentleman. AWA has been working on this particular property for some time and God has answered your prayers as we were able to come to an agreement satisfactory to both parties.

Our next action has been to actually begin work on the property. Over the past several months it has been decided a caretaker was needed. This person would be a Filipino who would keep an eye on the property and its boundaries. The kubo will be built on the south side of the road. Another home – built out of concrete blocks – will be built at the northeast end of the property. This will be the guest house and our temporary home. We are traveling 1.5 hours each direction from the AWA compound in Puerto Princesa and hope to live on the site as soon as possible. We are also going to begin work on the runway which means tilling and removing top soil, laying gravel, compacting, reapplying the top soil, and then seeding. This is the most exciting job we will be working on this trip.

Clif allowed Dave to fly a pass over the property the first week we arrived. Very amazing, the property is absolutely perfect for an airstrip and already has a swath cleared down the centerline. We so wanted to land!! We are hoping Clif will indeed be able to land when he returns from furlough this August!

There is a lot of work to do in such a short time but, we know the Lord will accomplish what He wants completed. We solicit your prayers while we work on this project.

GPS and Santa Claus

As this is the first time an accurate official land survey has been done in the area, trying to sort out legal property lines has been traumatic for everyone. The few who hold land titles have never had their property officially surveyed from a geographically established point. Rather, property boundaries are carry-overs from the tribal land-use system where the tribal fathers officiate in such transactions. Thus, any similarity of established farms to their owners’ legal description is purely co-incidental.

To compound the problem, as has been the case in our own country, swindling native peoples out of their possessions is common practice. You can understand the suspicion with which the Tagbanua eye foreigners who show up with fancy survey equipment that takes readings from satellites they can’t see – “Yeah, right! I suppose the equipment was personally certified by Santa Claus.” It only gets worse when the hired surveyors declare that the property the owners have occupied for decades isn’t really theirs when everyone knows it is.

(More Pictures on page 14)

Clearing the centerline of the runway last June.



Northwestern Alaska Campmeeting Report

by Jim Kincaid

Selawik, 5 March 2007

FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS ALASKA CONFERENCE personnel have made a late-winter trip to most of the villages with an Adventist presence for a few days of fellowship, worship, and encouragement. For the last five years AWA aircraft have facilitated this important ministry. The western camp meeting circuit includes Togiak, Bethel, Nome, Dillingham, Gambell, Savoonga, Barrow, and Selawik.

We first met Flora and Jo Savok about ten years ago, when they were about four years old. These identical twins were born to a young high-school girl; sadly, she didn't want them. Paul and Marie Savok, our key Adventist leaders in the village, took in the twins investing love, care, and structure in their young lives.

In the beginning the girls were very shy. As with any identical twins, it was hard to tell them apart, especially if they were dressed in similar outfits. But now these



young teens are becoming more easily identifiable as they distinguish themselves with various hair styles and other features. Jo has taken up the guitar and accompanies Marie as she sings gospel songs.

Two years ago, during a spring prophecy seminar held by Brian and Denise Bechthold, the twins made their decision to be baptized and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. What an encouragement it is to see them from year to year as they continue to grow, participate in the church, and enlighten their world.



Note: Paul, Marie, Flora, & Jo Savok in center of photo with Selawik group.

ALASKA PROJECT				
AWA Alaska Aircraft N2019G \$54,151				
\$7,518 Still Needed				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
\$75,860 Still Needed				
Dillingham Hangar and Land \$100,000				

Construction Underway in Sagpangan!
Continued from page 13



British Columbia Youth begin clearing runway in December 2005.



West view after centerline is cleared.



Determining soil composition.

East view. Note grass burned in preparation for topsoil removal.



CROSSING THE RED SEA

(Adapted from the late Bill Baxter)

WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE caught between the pursuing Egyptian army and the waters of the Red Sea, the Lord instructed them to move forward. During Bill and Betty Baxter's first year of ministry at Sandoval, New Mexico, they encountered their own Red Sea experience.

It was 1947, and President Truman had just established the Air Force as a separate branch of the armed forces. That galvanized Bill's resolve to start an aviation ministry! "If worldly entities see this as a force for destruction of life," thought Bill, "we must make it an agency for saving life and reaching remote areas with the Gospel."

The Holy Spirit nudged. "Now is the time. Step out by faith."

Unsure how Betty would respond to such thoughts, Bill approached her with the idea. "You know I've been impressed from early in life that missionary aviation would be a factor in our service. Now I feel it's time to put thought into action."

Betty was very understanding. "The Bar 7 Flying Ranch is just down the road. Go ahead and get your pilot's license. I'll back you."

Now it was Bill's turn to express reticence. "But we don't have that kind of money." Flying with instruction in those days cost less than \$20.00 an hour, but it required a minimum of 40 hours to obtain a private pilot's license. That was a lot of money for a 1947 missionary budget. And what good would a license be if a plane had to be rented each time in order to perform a service? So Bill started dreaming of buying an airplane. And if he didn't have to rent a plane, instruction would cost him less than \$4.00 an hour.

As Bill was exploring this idea one day at the Albuquerque airport, he met a man named Bill Evans, who was a dealer for Aeronca Aircraft. Evans offered Bill a demonstration ride in an Aeronca 7AC. No second invitation was required! That demonstration flight clinched Bill's conviction that God was leading him into this phase of his ministry. Bill shared with Evans the missionary purpose of his interest in aviation, emphasizing his low budget. The cost of the 7AC was simply

out of his reach. Even so, a friendship sprang up between the two men, and whenever Bill went to Albuquerque he tried to stop by and greet Evans.

On one of those visits, Evans volunteered that the demonstrator plane, the Aeronca 7AC, was for sale at a reduced price. With only some 30 hours logged on it, the plane still smelled "factory new." The price Evans quoted, though reasonable, was still completely out of range. Bill went home disappointed.

Then one day Bill was reading his Bible. "Speak unto the children of Israel that they may go forward." Sensing God's voice, Bill



The Aeronca 7AC

asked, "How?" God's words to Moses in Exodus 4:2 popped into Bill's mind: "What hast thou in thine hand?"

Bill well knew that their only possession of value was their family car, a beautiful DeSoto which God had led them to. And he was sure that logically Betty would reject any idea of sacrificing the car to initiate a program of aviation. But God did not leave him at peace, so he talked with her about what he felt God was telling him. Bill was amazed to hear her say, "If that's what you think we should do, go ahead."

"But what will we do for transportation?" Bill countered.

"Since God has taken us through a term of mission service without a vehicle, He can do it again," was her simple answer." So together they prayerfully proposed a plan.

"This won't fly, but it's up to Bill Evans to reject it," was their reasoning. Their God-inspired proposal was to exchange the pre-

cious DeSoto for the Aeronca Champ plus one year's insurance on the aircraft. Though Bill was skeptical, God insisted: "Go ahead! Take the first step. The sea will open."

So Bill went to Albuquerque to make the crazy offer. To Bill's surprise, Evans said, "I have a car broker friend. Let me see what he says."

The car broker came to assess the value of the car. He was skeptical that he could sell the car for the \$1500 that it would take to buy the airplane, plus enough for one year's insurance on the plane. But he agreed to try.

Bill left the car with the broker two days later. Within a week he received a phone call from Evans. "Your car is sold, and I have enough to cover the \$1500 I had to get for the aircraft, with enough left over for the insurance."

Bill joyfully went to the broker to sign the papers. The broker asked, "What will you be using now for transportation?"

"We don't have any. We're on foot."

The dealer gestured toward a car in the lot. "Would this 1934 Chevy Coupe be of any help?" Bill barely glanced at the car before agreeing that he could use it. "Then sign here for the title transfer," said the broker. He was giving Bill the car!

Bill left the car lot in that Chevy, laying down a smoke screen. He would have to buy oil by the gallon, but this car would start, it would run, and it had decent tires. As Bill drove home, now owner of a nearly new Aeronca Champ and unexpectedly this oil-guzzling Chevy coupe, he had to exclaim, "My cup runneth over!"

Soon after, in January 1948, Evans delivered the now Baxter-owned Aeronca Champ, NC84814, to the Bar 7 Flying Ranch. Bill's first instruction flight took place on January 25. He first soloed on February 4, and tested for his private pilot's license on February 29. Bill had gotten his license in just 36 days! Never before had Bar 7 produced a private pilot so quickly. But then, never before had they taught someone so motivated by the call of God to start a mission aviation program.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

ADDRESSING HIS ETHNOCENTRIC AUDIENCE, Jesus broke the news as gently as He could, "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen." John 10:16. Response to His discourse is recorded in John 10:19-21.

In the fall 2004 issue of *Flight Log* I shared in this column what it appeared God was doing among missions in general and **AWA** in particular. "Interdenominational cooperative efforts are not only possible; they are reality (I then cited an article published in the *Adventist Review* as evidence that others were experiencing the same phenomenon)...Imagine the tremendous synergy as Adventists, Baptists, Methodists, Nazarenes, Presbyterians and others role up their sleeves and work shoulder to shoulder toward a common goal. Jesus plainly stated that *all men* would know that we were His disciples if we loved one another. What a testimony to the power of God that would be!"

The reaction was not unlike the one Jesus received. A church dropped its sponsorship of a missionary family. Readers cancelled subscriptions. One denominational leader labeled the view ecumenist. A board member chided me for making the observations publicly. Transparency however, demands we report where God is at work so His people have the opportunity to join Him there. Two and a half years later I'm nearly speechless at what God has done. The stories in this issue stand as evidence to His activity.

B-T Aviation personnel answer invitations to speak in churches that span the denominational spectrum. Chris and Amy Borcharding, **AWA** missionaries-in-training, serve as youth leaders at the local Methodist Church. Bill and Laura LaBore conduct ministry in cooperation with members of numerous denominations. A Nazarene recently rotated off **AWA-Philippines** Board of Directors. **AWA** is a member of the Quest Mission Team along side various mission

agencies intent on producing the first turbine-powered aircraft designed to meet the challenges of 21st century missions.

And to top it all off, our brethren in the greater evangelical community have challenged the Adventist community to invest in the infrastructure needed to carry the three angels messages to the remote corners of planet earth. The Northwest Christian Community Foundation has placed a matching challenge of **\$1.5 million** on the table intended to help **AWA** acquire four new Kodiak airplanes!

I hear God calling His sheep from other pens for the purpose of fulfilling Matthew 24:14. They are responding. Do you hear His voice today?

Don Starlin
President



FLIGHT LOG ➔

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