

FLIGHT LOG

SPRING 2009

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 2

FOR THE FRIENDS OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

Heliflights4hope



Above: Neal Lanning and his team stand with some of the helicopters scheduled to fly in September, 2009. Right: Neal on the skid of a Jet Ranger.



by Neal Lanning

Helicopter Formation Flight Raises Funds for at-risk Youth in the SDA Community – Missionary Aviation of a whole different nature.

On September 24th, 2009 over a dozen helicopters are scheduled to depart Advanced Helicopter Concepts, Inc. in Frederick, Maryland for Calhoun, Tennessee on an awareness and fundraising drive for “at-risk youth”. What makes this flight unique is that most of the helicopters are being flown by current and former at-risk youth. Many of the Instructors are empathetic as they

had their own issues in life to work through. The challenge and discipline of aviation played a key role in the growth and healing process. Media events are scheduled in 12 cities where the flight of helicopters will make stops on the way to Advent Home in Calhoun, TN just north of Chattanooga.

Funds raised by Advanced Helicopter Youth Foundation will provide scholarships for at-risk-youth to attend Advent Home. The idea for the flight came from Neal D.

Lanning, President of Advanced Helicopter Concepts, Inc. Lanning grew up in the Adventist community in Maryland, attending Spencerville Jr. Academy, and Takoma Academy. Lanning shares the following experience in his own words:

The genesis of Advanced Helicopter Youth Foundation came after a life-changing event in our household. In 2006 one of my

(Continued on page3)





Don Starlin,
President

body parts & instruments

No, I've NOT RECENTLY DEPLOYED TO A location where suicide bombers ply their trade.

A recurring theme of the apostle Paul is the concept that God grants various gifts to members of the church. Together they figuratively make up the body of Christ - with Jesus at the head. When the individual members concentrate on receiving and executing instructions from Christ, everyone works in unison, and amazing things result.

To reinforce the concept, let's change metaphors.

Consider the awful racket an orchestra makes before a concert: each instrument tuned, or practiced indi-


vidually. But when the conductor steps to the podium - oh, what tremendous music ensues! When everyone plays their part at the right time with the correct emphasis, the audience erupts in a standing ovation.

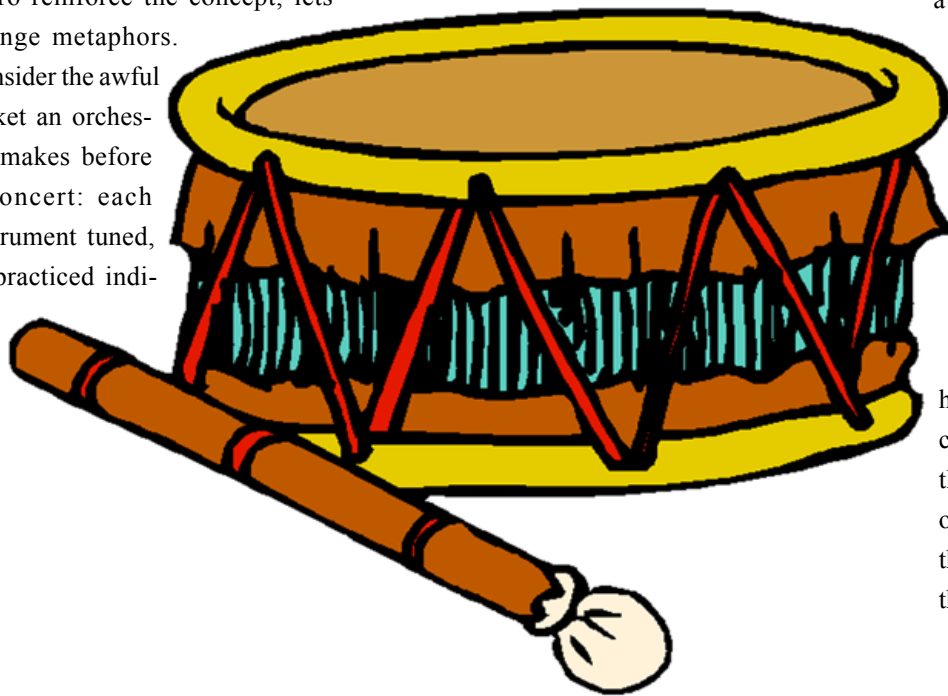
Why is this concept so important? God has created and assigned each of us a part to play in His master plan of salvation. "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Cor 12:26 NIV

One of the most poignant illustrations of suffering when mission aviation cannot play it's role occurred this past February as we sat

in Toronto listening to the appeals of brother Job Calaguian for air support of 72 short-term and long-term missionaries in Isabella Province, Luzon. (See Ed Brennan's article on page 10.) We knelt around a map of the Philippines and prayed the Lord of the harvest for more human and financial resources to aid those committed to reaching others.

Sadly, that is not the first desperate appeal I've heard. I still hear Captain Enseldo in Region 7, Guyana pleading for AWA missionaries to come and serve his tribal people. I recall the pleas of the Captain from Kopinang, Region 8, Guyana who pointed to a building where we could live as he begged us to stay. Then, there were the pleading eyes of a pastor in Tanzania who managed to visit each of his churches once every two or three years, and one in Peru in a similar situation. I remember the Alangan tribal leader on Mindoro in the Philippines who said, "Before you came, we died. Now we live."

Our desire is to play the instrument God has given AWA - the gift of aviation and communications support to those serving the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the unreached and forgotten peoples of the earth. Has God equipped you to join the band? 



FLIGHT LOG →

Vol. 15 No. 2
SPRING 2009

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 unreached and 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.

Heliflights4hope

(Continued from cover)

three sons was diagnosed as bipolar with ADD and other emotional and physiological problems. This impacted the whole family. A child so affected is like a title wave in the living room.

After struggling to deal with problems we were unqualified to handle, my wife and I decided to place our son in Advent Home, a residential treatment center and high school in Calhoun, Tennessee. I can't describe the anguish surrounding a decision like this. Any parent can imagine the desperation behind a decision to remove a 13 year-old child from your home. Such children can, and often do become violent, drug and alcohol dependent, and ultimately end in incarceration or death. Any parent, grandparent or loved-one of a child like this knows of what I speak.

The earth-shaking decision was finally made only after my wife and I felt that the family's safety was in question - we had become captives in our own home. After hearing stories of home-life during that period, I'm often asked what it was like to make a decision of this magnitude. I've likened it to being in an accident and having your arm or leg pinned down. The only way out is to chew it off. It's not easy, but necessary if you wish to survive.

Rehabilitation centers like this are very expensive, and usually not covered by insurance. My wife and I have been blessed. We




Left: Neal Lanning, President of Advanced Helicopter Concepts, Inc., and his son on admittance day. Below: Eight months later at Advent Home.

had the means, but regardless of your income, reallocating that amount of money in a household budget can really hurt. After getting involved with Advent Home, it became apparent to us that a lot of children came and went. Some graduated early. That usually meant the family was running out of money – just as the tremendous results of the program were beginning to be realized.

Watching children leave before they were ready troubled us a great deal. I pondered, "what would families with less means do? What about a single parent? What about a child being raised by grandparents?"

One afternoon with tears in my eyes I decided to do something about it. After months of thought and prayer I contacted a local businessman who took a large interest in my son's experience - Mr. Willem Meiners,



President of Publish America. Together, we decided to help families in similar situations. ADVANCED HELICOPTER YOUTH FOUNDATION was born. Stay tuned for further reports as the story develops. 



Flying with a Criminal, by the Grace of God

by Bill & Laura LaBore

Laura was sleeping hard when Jud called at 0600. It was her turn to fly, and there was an emergency call from Matthew's Ridge. She quickly got ready, headed to the airstrip and did her pre-flight inspection. The cool stillness of the dawn made the flight very pleasant. The fog was still hanging over Matthew's Ridge, as it usually does in the morning. She located a hole in the fog allowing her to land safely.

Upon landing, she found absolutely no one at the airstrip! The village is about 5 miles away, but she expected the hospital truck to be there with the patient.

"I skipped breakfast for THIS????!!

Not much of an emergency!", she mused.

At the Matthew's Ridge airstrip there is no cell phone or HAM reception, so she was unable to call anyone or go anywhere to inquire about a potential delay.

After about 30 minutes of waiting around, she started wondering, "Did I misunderstand and go to the wrong airstrip?" When she thought about it though, she was SURE Jud had said "Matthew's Ridge," but then again,

she *had* been quite tired at the time. Finally, an hour later, the hospital truck showed up. It had taken the patients an hour to get to the airstrip.

The story started the night before, at 11 pm. There is no electricity, so everything was dark in the village. Everyone at the house was drunk, when a man we'll call George came in (also drunk), and tried to rape an 11-year-old girl. The girl's father grabbed a cutlass (machete), and in the dark started slashing at George. The father fell and George whacked back, striking the father across the back, cutting half-way through the scapula bone, and the wrist. George only received some small cuts on his face.

The nurse from the local hospital worked all night on both of them, and that's when Laura came into the picture.

She had to fly both of them out, with a nurse, to Georgetown. Her thoughts were "Where do I put these guys????!!" The plane only has four seats total, so there aren't too many options! She didn't want them in the back together where they might still fight it out in flight. The nurse needed to be by the father to provide medical care, and he needed to be lying down. That took up both seats in the back. However, Laura sure didn't want George sitting next to her, with all the controls of the airplane right there, even if he was in handcuffs! But, in the end,



that's where he ended up, with his handcuffs and I.V.


Before taking off, the nurse had to work on the father's I.V. and administer medications. Since Laura is a nurse, she went to work on George's I.V. They gave both men Valium, which made Laura happy.

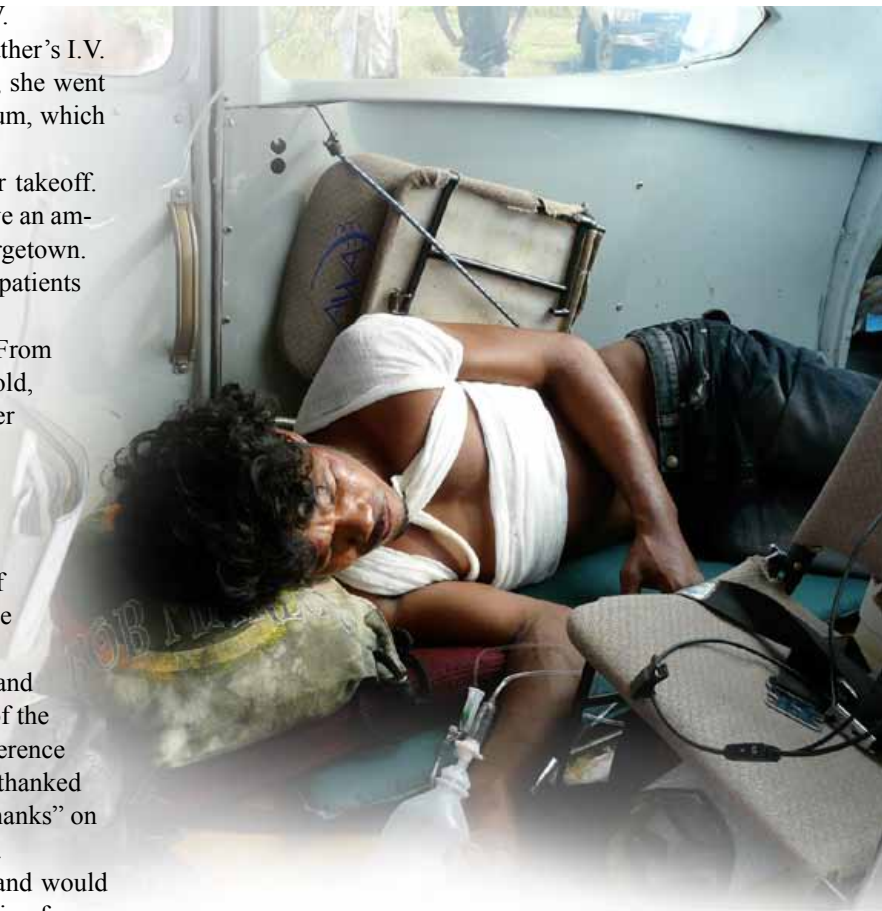
After getting all the I.V.s set up, it was time for takeoff. While in the air, she called Air Traffic Control to have an ambulance and the police meet her at the airport in Georgetown. They arrived at the airport without incident and both patients pleasantly drowsy!

Three days later, a call came from the same area. From one town, she had to pick up a little girl, 9 years old, who had been playing with matches and gasoline. Her whole face was burned severely. She also picked up a man who'd been bitten by a snake, and a boy who had broken his arm. On the flight back, the plane was packed full of vaccines and syringes, along with some people returning to the jungle. At the end of the day, it's good to know that we made a difference in someone's life.

Those of you who are supporting us with prayers and finances, please feel free to also sit back at the end of the day and know that you too have made a very real difference in lots of lives here. Many, many, times we've been thanked for the things that we've done, but we pass those "thanks" on to you. Without you, none of this would be possible.

If you are not currently supporting this project and would like to get involved individually, or perhaps are looking for a mission project for your church, or Sabbath School, we are seeking donors who would be willing to help support the operation of our aircraft (fuel and maintenance) so that we can continue flying missions like the ones just described. Our team, however, rests assured that God will provide the necessary resources just as they are needed.

At the very least, would you join us in prayer for the longevity of our efforts here? During these difficult economic times, we must keep in mind that the gospel commission must go forward. If you would like to read more mission stories from Guyana, check out our blog at www.wfhguyana.org! May the Lord bless you as you serve Him. 



GUYANA PROJECT				
		Bill, Laura, Danielle, and Micah LaBore		
		LaBore Monthly Goal \$3,625		
Goal Reached This Quarter - Thank You!				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
Monthly Sponsorship-10 Villages* Goal \$2,500				
Still Needed - \$2050				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
*\$250 monthly provides air and communication service to Bible workers in one of the unreached jungle villages.				

Faith Calaminos steers the Zodiac.

River Adventures



"Ride the river that flows to the ocean you wish to be."

by Faith Calaminos

IN THIS ISSUE WE WELCOME A FEATURE article from Faith Calaminos, an intrepid and resourceful Student Missionary who has been working with us since last October. We hope that her story will serve as an inspiration to other young people to consider short-term service with us here in Guyana or other places in the mission field. Our family and many others have been tremendously blessed by her presence; we hope and pray that her experiences will provide her with a few more tools to aid in facing life's challenges in the years to come.

—Jud, Karen, Jacob and Zachary Wickwire

The dark gray clouds loomed overhead as we stepped out of the house. We knew it was going to be another wet one. Last weekend, the Wickwires and I crammed the five of us, hammocks and food into the Zodiac and headed up the river to Blackwater.

Being on the river, with wind darting

through my hair, I breathe in the fresh South American morning. The rainforest greens line my peripherals in speedy streaks. I squint as the rain spatters my face at an angle and velocity that prevents fully opened eyes. But the smile forming on my lips is full. What peace, what serenity I am blessed with. Not only of my surroundings, but much more for the contentment of knowing that the destination isn't all about me, that there is an opportunity to serve—and that is a unique kind of satisfaction.

An hour and half later, and thoroughly soaked, we

reached the church building where the group meets. Word quickly spread that we had landed, and children and adults began arriving in their dugout canoes of varying sizes, hues and sinking capabilities. We had a great turnout of about



Children and adults began arriving in their dugout canoes of varying sizes, hues and sinking capabilities.

22 children and 20 adults. Karen and I enjoyed doing crafts with the kids. Each passing week there, I've witnessed their shyness slowly diminish as they begin to enjoy themselves a little more each time. I am reminded of why and how much I like these Blackwater trips, wet or dry.

Usually we are only up for the day, but this time we stayed overnight for a project waiting for Sunday. The church we are currently using isn't ours, and we are now being asked to relocate. We need a new meeting place right away. Together with some locals, and a few members of Mabaruma SDA church, we began clearing the land with cutlasses. Afterwards, the men worked hard to set up a foundation appropriate for the swampy area the church is being built on.

By Thursday I was back on the river. It had been 10 years since the last region-wide Yellow Fever vaccinations. Two nurses from the Maternal & Child Health clinic, Laura LaBore, and I, jumped on a boat bound for the Aruka River to take part in this vaccination campaign. We went from river home to river home, giving yellow fever, whooping cough, and tetanus vaccinations. We met many different people along the way.

The next day, our small team was stationed at the Aruka Mouth Primary School where we vaccinated the children as well as some adults who came by. Being at the school let me experience more of what it means to be a people of the river. There was no concrete parking lot full of cars, but rather a bundle of canoes tied to the end of the dock. Instead of a playground for recess, I watched girls skipping rope on the dock, not with a

jump rope but with a long vine from a tree. Every single child was barefoot. My initial thought was pity that the kids don't have anything proper to play with. However, as I continued to watch, I realized that their laughter and smiles are just as real as those of



Top to bottom: Children hold the cards they made; Faith helps clear the new church site Guyana style, with cutlasses; School girls jump "vine"; and a Guyanese woman and her baby wait their turn for vaccinations outside the clinic.

any North American kids playing on a new, multi-elemental jungle gym painted in bright primary colors.

That afternoon, I got home just in time to get into dryer clothes and bike up to the secondary school where every Friday after school, my friend Diane (a Peace Corps volunteer in the village) and I hang out with the kids. We mostly focus our time on those students who come from far away and have to live in the dorms. That week the girls giggled the afternoon away upon discovering the game "Twister". They seemed to find it particularly amusing when we were the ones falling.



Those few days

on the river and the short period I once spent living in Blackwater show the juxtaposition between the primitive way of life on the river, virtually unchanged for generations, with my North American view of an ever-changing, constantly developing way of living faster and better and its constant, futile search for satisfaction.

My time here in Guyana thus far has been many things. I was convinced I came without expectations, but as time passed, I realized I was wrong as my expectations were met, shattered and exceeded. The full scope of the experience is hard to describe in full because most of the realizations and impact occurs internally. However, not a day has gone by in which I haven't thanked God for the





Top to bottom: The Zodiac moored in front of the clearing for the new church; One of the men cuts logs into planks for the new church. Jud Wickwire helps workers drag logs to be sawed into planks.

opportunity to be where I am. I am so grateful to Wings for Humanity for letting me join their team, and mostly to the Wickwires for opening their home and letting me hang out with them. The past seven months have allowed me to develop my passion for mission service and to learn some of the realities of mission work:

that making a difference is a process;
that results may not always be seen;
that God is real.

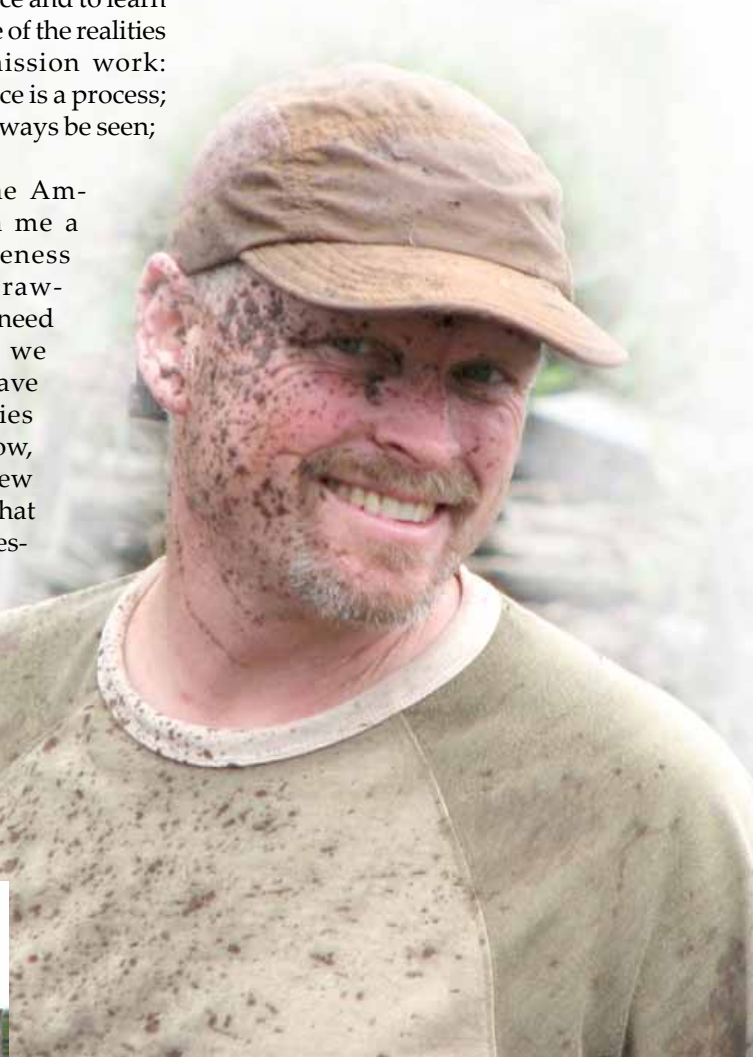
Living among the Amerindians has given me a much greater awareness of humanity in its rawness—how much we need each other because we are all we have. I leave this place with stories to tell, pictures to show, odd tan lines and a few bugs digested. But what I value most are the lessons of reality. Living for God, for others and for a work

beyond one-

self is simply the most fulfilling life to live.

Four project needs:

➔ **Church building at Blackwater** - Faith talked about the church building at Blackwater; a church-planting project close to our hearts. It is our hope that the first structure under construction can ultimately be the home of the children's divisions and that a group of volunteers could help build a larger main sanctuary for the congregation in the coming months.



GUYANA PROJECT	
	Jud, Karen, Jacob, and Zachary Wickwire
Wickwire Monthly Goal \$4,900 Canadian	
Goal Reached This Quarter - Thank You!	
10% 30% 50% 70% 90%	
U.S. contributors use enclosed envelope. Canadian contributors use Canadian address on page 2.	

➔ **Aircraft Hangar at Mabaruma** - The lengthy process of securing land alongside the airstrip has been completed. The construction of the approach taxiway and ramp area should begin soon in preparation for the hangar structure itself. ***This is an urgent need—to shelter and secure the Cessna 182, and soon the Cessna 206.*** It is increasingly challenging to complete the ongoing maintenance in the open. We are asking for a group to sponsor the purchase of the hangar and provide labor to erect it.

➔ **Fuel Funding** - Wings for Humanity has been able to secure fuel funding from within Guyana for the majority of the flights conducted, substantially reducing the dependence on home funding. However, there is still a huge shortfall each month for maintenance of about \$2,000 US. We invite you to consider individual, group, corporate or church sponsorship of this high-impact investment.

➔ **Mission housing and property** - We have found a very attractive piece of property at Mabaruma a short distance from the airstrip. It is large enough for two or three mission houses, volunteer housing, and a community outreach facility. As an added bonus, the property also borders on a creek that will provide boat access directly to the Aruka River to facilitate further develop river ministry. We invite sponsorship of the property acquisition in the near future and construction of mission housing over the next several months. 🌿



James Craik standing by the trusty C-185 on the Noatak River a few miles north of Kotzebue.

Alaska Mission Team is Growing!

by Jim Kincaid

AWA-Alaska and Northwestern Aviation Services are please to announce the recruitment of James and Lorraine Craik, who returned to the States after flying for Gospel Ministries International last year.

Jim is filling a combined position of flying trips to fulfill AWA's mission in Alaska as well as flying on-demand air charter for Northwestern Aviation Services. Jim and Lorraine completed three and a half years of mission flying in Guyana.

An interesting historical note is that Jim and I completed our private pilot training at Walla Walla College about the same time in the early 1970s. Our paths have crossed a few times in the intervening years and we have maintained periodic contact.

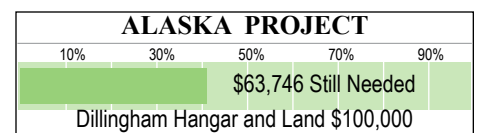
Jim is also an experienced A&P mechanic and will fulfill the position of Assistant Director of Maintenance for Northwestern Aviation Services.

We praise God that our mission team can be increased and enhanced by the Craiks' commitment to service. 🌿

MEMORIALS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR
PHIL ALBERTSON	MARCELLIS D ALBERTSON
OTHOL COOK	DAVID & LYNDA HARDWICK
ELEANOR WHITE HILL	RUTH I. HALLER
HAROLD P. HOOVER	ESTHER P. SHARPES
OSEAS IMPERIO, SR	ERNIE & ANNABELLE LOPEZ
BILL KUERZINGER	HILDEGARD KUERZINGER
MARIA MENDOZA	ROBERT & REDENCION OSIA
JIM & LARRY STARLIN	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
JIM & LARRY STARLIN	CHARLENE A. STARLIN
CAROL SUMNER	URSULA J. KONEGEN
ALYCE K TYREE	BILL & ALYCE TYREE
EDWARD YANEZ	BARBARA A. YANEZ
MARY L. C. YORK	CHARLES H. YORK
NANCY SMITH	DON AND TRUDI STARLIN

IN HONOR OF	DONOR
Nancylee Schumacher Birthday	Arthur & Nancylee Schumacher
Leah Canada	David & Sarah Canada
Glenn Hill	Marilyn Cousino



Into the Sea

by Edwin Brennan

JOB CALAGUIAN HAD TALKED TO ADVENTIST World Aviation for months but still found himself on a bus. With him were 40 Adventist University of the Philippines theology students and staff. The request had been a simple one; fly him, his staff, and theology students over a mountain. The flight would not take very long, only about 40 minutes. And the help for the staff would be tremendous. He also needed to transport surgical patients back over the mountains to receive much-needed treatment and surgery. So how did he end up on the bus?

In December 2008, Job contacted Don to set up the transportation request. This would not be the first time that he had received transportation help from Adventist World Aviation. Last year over 60 people had been transported over the mountain, including a

there is no airplane? The two other options can be dangerous even in the best of weather. Some frontier missionaries have chosen to hike over the mountains. This is a two-day hike over some very rugged terrain, camping out overnight in the wilderness on top of the mountain. The other option was to endure a very dangerous twelve-hour boat ride. During good weather the boat ride can be done safely enough. If the weather gets bad, the trip can become deadly. There are no roads into the area, so buses, trucks, or cars are not an option. The villagers have very little contact with the outside world. The only source of medical care is what Job has been able to bring in with the help of AWA. That is why the air transportation is so important—the other options are so risky.

In January 2009, Job contacted AWA



again to seek transportation help, and this time I fielded the call. Could AWA assist him once again, getting the team of 72 over the mountain? Could we transport the surgery patients (on the return trip) to the Adventist hospital on the west side? Cagayan Valley Sanitarium has worked for years with these villagers and wanted to expand its operation this year to the three medical teams. They wanted to perform surgery on the village patients in their hospital if we could provide the transportation. An ambitious plan given the logistics, but we had done it before and felt we could do it again, except that I was not quite ready to deploy.

The operation was scheduled for late March into early April. We were planning to go to Toronto in February for a speaking engagement, and Job was going to be there also. We met in Pastor Catangay's house to discuss the request and explain our launching status. We decided to pray over the map of the Philippines to ask for a miracle from our Father; either provide a way for the Brennan family to expedite their deployment, or provide safe transportation to the



medical team. This year they had all of the theology students and wanted to bring three medical teams—72 people. Could AWA meet the need? How could he get the team to Palanan otherwise?

Palanan is a small barangay or town situated on the east coast of the island of Luzon. The problem lies in the fact that Palanan is on the coastal side of the Sierra Madre Mountains. In the past, AWA has picked up the team members at a small strip in Cauayan, Isabella, on the western side of the mountains. It only takes 40 minutes to fly over the mountains and land on the airstrip. It is simple enough to get there with an airplane, but what if

Top: Passengers are briefed on procedures before flights; Above: AWA's Philippine team transported the team above to the Palanan area. Right: Dr. Jimenez viewing an old x-ray for a young boy and was able to send him to the hospital right away because AWA's Cessna 182 was standing by.



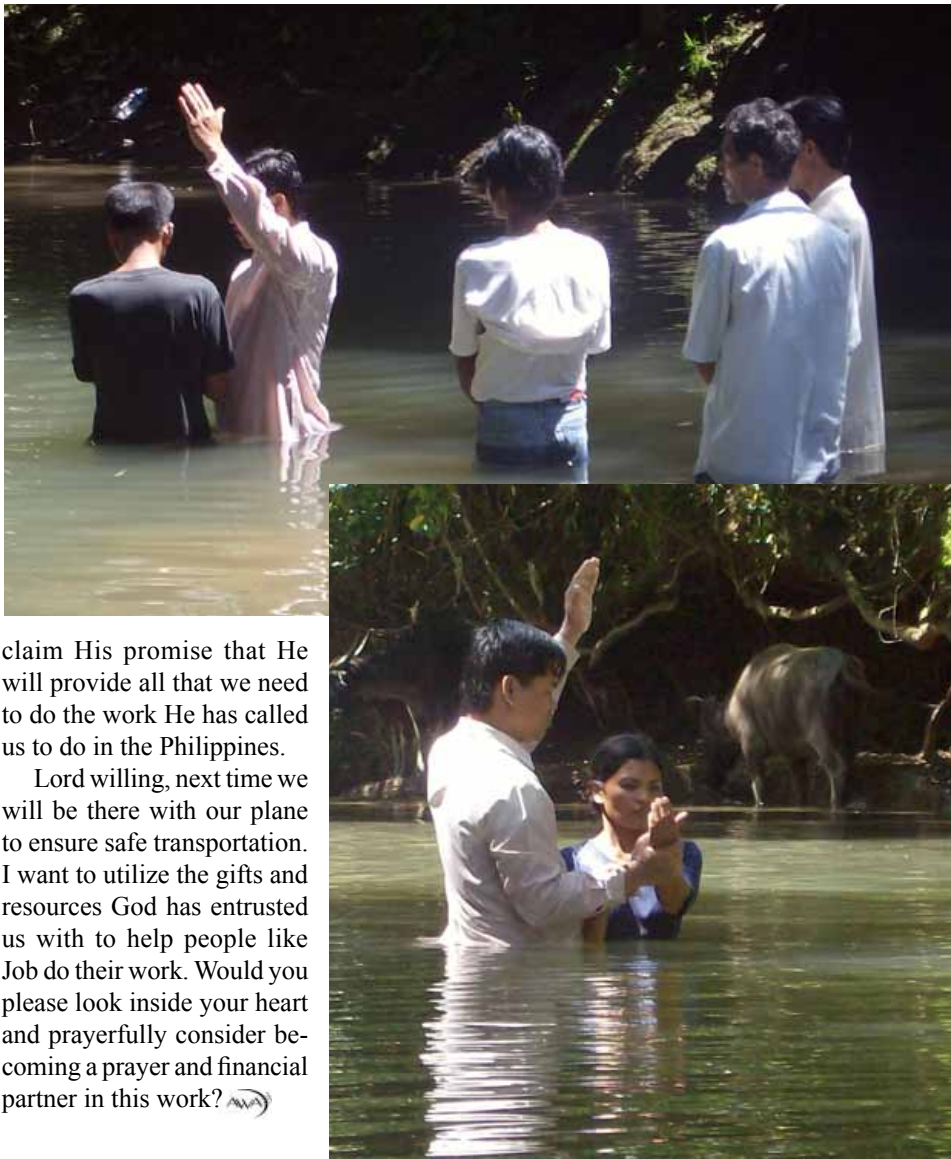
Right and below: Last year, hope came in an Airplane! Eighty-nine souls were baptized as the result of medical and evangelistic outreach. Days of dangerous travel by land and sea were eliminated, and the extra time used in ministry.

Palanan region. We have a faithful Father in heaven with plans we do not understand; He has a way for these things to work out when we trust Him.

The next time I spoke with Job was in the third week in March. I explained that we had not reached our launching goals and that the airplane was not ready anyway—we needed an annual inspection to be performed. As I am writing this article, we are still \$24,903 short of our launching goal, and approximately \$1,481 short of our monthly support partnerships.

When I last spoke to Job, he had just completed his bus ride to a seaside town where they would contract with a ferry to provide transportation to the Palanan village. The bad news was that a low pressure system was developing in the area and could make the trip very dangerous. We await news of their trip.

We have just booked our flight to the Philippines. We prayerfully considered the growth rate of our prayer and financial partnerships in comparison with God’s apparent timing and took a step of faith that God will complete what He has started. We ask that you continue as prayer and financial partners. We put this in God’s hands and



claim His promise that He will provide all that we need to do the work He has called us to do in the Philippines. Lord willing, next time we will be there with our plane to ensure safe transportation. I want to utilize the gifts and resources God has entrusted us with to help people like Job do their work. Would you please look inside your heart and prayerfully consider becoming a prayer and financial partner in this work?



Unloading solar panels and radio equipment for the PFM missionaries stationed in Palanan.

PHILIPPINES PROJECT

Missionaries in Training
Ed, Marilyn, and Felicia Brennan

Launching Goal \$85,125

\$24,903 Still Needed

10%30%50%70%90%

Still Needed \$1,481

Brennan Monthly Support \$4,790

Monthly People Group Sponsorship* \$22,500

\$22,356 Still Needed

10%30%50%70%90%

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

PHILIPPINES PROJECT

10%30%50%70%90%

\$107,246 Still Needed

Mission Airbase Development \$350,000

AWA Receives Answers to Prayers



God's Carabao

Answers to Prayer #2 – AWA received two gifts that require a third! A welded-tube structure airplane has been donated that is in need of some structural repair! God has furnished an aircraft mechanic willing to do the repairs, but he needs a TIG welder for this particular job. A good TIG welder will not only complete this job, but go with the mechanic to the mission field to make a difference there! If you or anyone you know has a TIG welder not in use, please know that if donated to AWA, it will be used for God's glory!

Answers to Prayer #3 - Are you an A&P Mechanic and out of work? AWA has received notice that a mission-minded owner of a concrete plant wishes to hire a mixer operator whom he would keep busy on mission airplane projects when not delivering concrete. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact Paul at 817-713-5959.



Answers to Prayer #1 – What does one need to commence agricultural work in the Philippines? A carabao! Funding for a carabao was donated to help care for the airbase in Sagpangan, Aborlan, Palawan. However, one carabao, no matter how industrious, can't keep up with 70 acres. Now another blessing - a running Farmall Cub tractor with implements has been donated to assist the carabao! With the tractor comes another need – someone willing to donate time to refurbish it so it can be a blessing for years of service in the Philippines.

If you or someone you know enjoys restoring old tractors, your labor of love could make a major difference for frontier missionaries working among the mountain tribes. They have very little food to eat – most of it backpacked in. Food supplies grown on the agricultural development at AWA's airbase can help support these frontier missionaries as they labor among these primitive tribes. Even if you can't be a cross-cultural frontier missionary, you can help support many of them if you are a gifted tractor mechanic!



AWA KODIAK AIRPLANE #1 GOAL		\$1,125,000
NCCF Matching Grant	AWA Donors	+ \$375,000 Due on Delivery
\$1,012,564 Raised		\$185,454 Still Needed
16.5%	33%	50%
		67%
		83.5%

Jonah or Balaam?

by Greg VanFossen

IN THE COURSE OF THIS ADVENTURE WITH GOD, others on the path ahead of us (those who are presently in the foreign mission field) have related that their search for sponsors seemed to have taken forever. We are getting into a phase where we can empathize. Questions about moving forward have started to emerge: How long is this really going to take? How much does the recession affect what we are trying to accomplish? What is reasonable to expect?

A short time before we moved from Banning, California, another church member expressed his regret of our family leaving. He then stated that he wouldn't want me to be a Jonah. I suppose he could have as easily said he didn't want me to be a Balaam.

The stories of Jonah and Balaam afford me examples of how God has worked with individuals who didn't (or didn't want to) hear His voice. Jonah received a call from God. Balaam received a call from the Devil. Jonah was a prophet of God. Balaam wanted profit. Jonah was supposed to go to Nineveh. Balaam was supposed to stay home. Jonah went the wrong direction. Balaam went. Jonah was concerned about his reputation. Balaam was consumed by greed. Jonah encountered a storm while going the wrong way and got a ride in a fish. Balaam encountered an angel with

Jonah was supposed to go to Nineveh. Balaam was supposed to stay home. Jonah went the wrong direction. Balaam went.

a sword. When Jonah encountered the storm his conscience appealed to his reason. When Balaam's transportation didn't cooperate and then spoke to him his insanity became blatantly obvious—he was so absorbed in his mission he didn't seem to

realize he was having a conversation with a donkey—which is a comical display of what God is willing to do to meet us where we are. It appears that Jonah was concerned more about his reputation as a prophet than he was about the whole city of Nineveh. Balaam was more interested in wealth than the welfare of a whole nation. These misplaced priorities boil down to pride and the love of money—"the lust of the eyes and the pride of life."

How do I avoid repeating the experiences of these two men? I can pursue a better life here by seeking ownership of better things. I can avoid embarrassment by not putting myself in a situation where I might fail or, perhaps, be the target of criticism. Apathy toward spreading the Good News is definitely a more comfortable approach and does not have the risk of failure. If I stay in my little corner of the world and don't do anything out of my comfort zone, then life will be easier. Or will it?


The stories of Jonah and Balaam help me realize at least one thing; if I'm not doing what God wants me to do, He has overt ways of letting me know it. But what if nothing seems to be happening? No storm? No angel with a drawn sword? No action? No progress? What then? Is it just a waiting game? Am I not hearing God's directives? Certainly there are some.

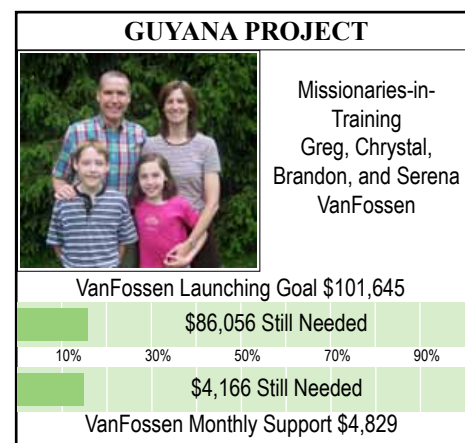
The fish-god "Dagon" was a prevailing "god" in the areas about Nineveh. Jonah's arrival and delivery via a fish was no doubt an attention-getter. This also demonstrates that God is willing to use whatever seems to have our attention to refocus our trust in Him—in a dramatic way if necessary.



It is easy to fixate on the financial aspects of this project to the extent that they seem to control the process. This can occur due to an anxious mindset consisting of impatience, insecurity or a combination thereof, which will narrow the mind's perceptual field. With that narrow view, God's perspective won't be fully appreciated, and discouragement will set in and give our adversary a foothold.

The focus of this project needs to be on God's perspective; the monetary status is merely a measure of something. Whatever that something is, it is not the controlling agent. God is the controlling agent, with funding being the mechanism used for letting me know when to proceed to the next phase of activity.

So when someone asks me when we are going to move to Guyana, I have to respond by saying that the Holy Spirit will decide, but the funding is the measuring stick. 





Jeffrey Shafer

AWA-TN IS QUICKLY PROGRESSING TOWARDS its one-year anniversary. In fact, this will probably be the last article before one year has elapsed. Reflecting back over our first year, I'd like to tell you we have had nothing but blue skies, calm winds,

Will Leader



and a simple operation, but then we would not have learned anything. Reflecting back over the first year there have been many difficulties, but God's grace has endured, and the results of our year far outweigh the difficulties.

In June of last year N66055 was delivered to Heritage Academy from Oklahoma. It was exciting to have the airplane that instantly made our training program a reality. There were only a couple of problems. First, with an airplane come bills, and school was not scheduled to start until late August. How would we pay the bills until the students began training? Second, would we have students to train? We received a donation from a wonderful family in Jamestown, TN, that provided us operating funds for the first couple months. As for the bills that accompanied the airplane, AWA has been very gracious in giving us time to catch up on them. It is very difficult to start a flight school from nothing, but we are enduring and making headway.

When school started in the fall, God provided us with wonderful students eager to learn about aviation. We had 14 students interested in taking part in the private pilot ground school, which we began teaching right away. As for the flight training, it took until after Christmas break to get everything in order to begin flying. This put a real strain on the program, because that meant six months of bills with no income or donations.

We continued to have faith that God would provide when He felt we needed help.

Three young men began training towards their private licenses in the middle of winter. I never heard a complaint from them, even when the temperature was below chilly. It wasn't long before we discovered something else about flying in TN during the winter months. Besides being cold, the wind tends to blow at a steady 15 – 20 knots and is rarely down the runway. This was yet another obstacle we had to deal with. I am thankful for the students God has given us this year. They are *patient, hard working and focused*. Their attitude has been wonderful even through the weeks that we weren't able to train due to the weather.


As you read this article, if all goes as planned, one of our students will be in a foreign mission field working as an apprentice missionary pilot. Mr. Andrew (A. J.) McGee decided early this year that he wanted to be

a missionary pilot. He has filled out applications and made the necessary arrangements for this to happen. We are now working diligently on his training so that he will be ready to take the private pilot check ride on his 17th birthday early this summer. At that point he will travel to an aviation mission base and spend the remainder of his summer in some remote part of this world.

We are very excited for A.J. and his decision here at Heritage Academy. This is not a decision AWA-TN or Heritage Academy was involved in. A.J. and his family made this decision and have done most of the legwork themselves, but it exemplifies what we are trying to do. We are interested in training missionary pilots, and we are very fortunate that our first student is giving up the summer prior to his senior year to experience missionary aviation first hand.

Now that spring is here, the weather is being more cooperative. We have been able

to explore other airports in the area and have been able to get serious about our quest for soloing. Spring also reminds me of another impending challenge. Our annual is due in May, and again we are hopeful that God will answer our prayers and assist us in making wise decisions with the airplane He has entrusted us with.

This first year has been interesting. We have learned quite a lot this year and are eager to continue learning while doing the work God has placed before us. We have many students eager to begin flying next year and are hopeful to accommodate as many as possible. We have amassed a small list of needs for our program and even a few wants. Looking forward from here, I'm not quite sure how God will carry us to next fall; what I do know is that he will, because he is directing too many young missionaries our way to allow the project to end. 

Andrew (A.J.) McGee



Eskimos Invited to the 2009 Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh

WE HAVE INVITED THE ESKIMO DANCERS from Togiak, AK, to attend the Oshkosh Camporee. Many of these young people have never been further than Anchorage, and some not even that far. Because they live in such an isolated village, it is becoming difficult to find funding for their airfare from Togiak to Seattle. (They will be driven to Oshkosh from Seattle.) This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for them (as it is for many of our young people).

If you have frequent flyer miles you would like to donate, or would like to help fund airfare, please send any donations to AWA, PO Box 251, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, and mark it Eskimos to Oshkosh. And if you have flyer miles, please call Fran Hansen 509-823-9728.

We appreciate any help you can give us!



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