



FOR THE FRIENDS OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

## *Mahal Ka Ng Panginoong Jesus*

by Ed Bennan

**W**HAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE two doctors, six nurses, one pastor, two laymen, and various helpers? Mahal ka ng Panginoong Jesus.

Loosely translated that means Jesus loves you.

This was our theme as we embarked on a two week reaping event in Sagpangan, Aborlan, Palawan, near the AWA Air Base

under development. The Palawan Adventist Mission director, Pastor Faigao, started planning for this in January and enlisted AWA's  
*(Continued on page 4)*

Pastor Faigao baptizes eight people on the beach.



## *Building the Kingdom!*





Don Starlin,  
President

# Is Mission Aviation Still Necessary?

It's a fair question - one I answer from time to time. Consider the following evidence:

→ On the African continent 90% of the road system (that existed in 1960) is no longer useable. (*Changes in Missionary Aviation*, Ed Robinson, 2003)

→ The World Business Council for Sustainable Development estimates that by 2030 more than 1 Billion people will not have access to an all-weather road.

→ Mission Aviation Fellowship's **Operation ACCESS!** found that 87 percent of 364 sectors studied had moderate to significant road-access barriers, and 89 percent had moderate to significant communications barriers. More than half of the sectors projected that services from MAF would be somewhat to significantly helpful in enabling access to the gospel and to kingdom-advancing resources.


→ AWA maintains a file with nearly a dozen requests for air support of frontier mission opportunities around the world that go unmet.

But isn't missionary aviation expensive?

When measuring return on investment, it's not as much as you might think. In re-

viewing the numbers for 2009 we learned **AWA's ministry impacted 25,000 lives at a cost of about \$25 per person!** These are not casual contacts. On the contrary, these are high-impact, life-saving (and changing) person-to-person contacts with potential to turn entire villages upside down and sometimes affect entire nations for the Kingdom!

With an estimated 800 million people on the planet practically accessible only by air, AWA has one of the grandest heaven-ordained mandates on earth—to meet physical needs, proclaim a message of hope, and prepare the foundation for a future in God's Kingdom!

I invite you to read the stories of some for whom AWA makes a very big difference. Like those whom we serve, you may never be the same again. 



**Above:** Fear permeates an animist's life. The spirits are cruel masters. **Below:** Ramón, a converted shaman who now serves Jesus.



## FLIGHT LOG →

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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.



# Inherent Value

by Greg VanFossen

**L**AST QUARTER OUR FAMILY WENT TO GUYANA FOR TWO weeks to get a personal perspective on the physical and social environment as well as other things we would encounter as missionaries to this country. We left the US on January 28 and returned February 11, never staying in any one location more than two to three days at a time. The experience proved to be quite educational, and we were excited to participate in a VBS, a health screening and hospital rounds at three locations in the jungle. Activities involved going into the interior and gaining a personal experience with some of the Amerindians.

At Baramita, someone asked us to teach them to read, another asked that we read the Bible to them, and a third asked that we give them a Bible and the book *Steps to Christ*. The leaders asked that AWA come and help their village, and they are willing to provide land for housing and a hangar. We asked ourselves, "What more do we need to be convinced God is at work with these people, a lightning bolt from heaven?" What we need instead, are more workers willing to go into the field to labor where such incredible opportunities are being opened up by God.

In the foreign mission field we see individuals putting their trust in animistic religions and/or adding new religions to the seemingly endless repertoire of existing ones, to make sure they have all their bases covered. When taking the Gospel to those regions, we need to be aware that someone may be interested in our belief system for the ulterior motives of getting the 'things' we have. The difference in the material and economic status of a missionary and a 'local' in a foreign field may be quite marked. This is likely to attract attention. We want to attract people to our God and His soon return without distracting them by the material 'things' we have. Obviously being from a 'different village' we are going to draw people's attention. We must take great care that when we do draw their attention, they see in our lives the desirable and eternal joy and happiness that 'Jesus in our lives' brings instead of the 'stuff' we possess.

The foreign field is not the only place where multiple religions and idols prevail within the individual's paradigm of life. I was

driving home early one morning and heard on the radio that a local Christian school had now developed its own football team. The Christian radio hosts expressed their excitement about the football team's existence in the league and their ability now to "fight for the Lord." This got me to thinking about how mixed even our Christian priorities have become with the secular world.


Here in the United States it seems the average Christian is more likely to know football scores than the word of God. We may put more money on a game than in the offering plate. We often spend our time on amusements which have no inherent value, and we put great trust in our employer's ability to stay in business and provide our monetary demands. This is evidenced by our promise to pay back credit cards, car, home and other loans in a given time frame, to the extent that we have become a debtor society. Virtually everything is purchased on credit rather than saving and paying in cash. We trust in multiple things for our well being—employer, insurance, car, home—the loss of any of which turns our whole world upside down. Are we really different than our counterparts in the jungle? I would suggest our physical characteristics are the only area of marked difference.

When Jesus came to this earth, He laid aside His Glory. Because He did this, there were many who did not receive Him—and still don't. God did this for a reason. He wanted to reach the individuals who were genuine and child-like in their desire to search for the Kingdom of God.

Christ's ability to heal and raise the dead attracted the attention of all. Who wouldn't

be interested in someone who went through a village and left no sick person behind? Certainly anyone who could multiply food, heal the sick and injured and raise the dead would be desirable for a king.

Consider the idea of going to battle with a king who could do all this. If a soldier got hungry the king could feed him, if he became injured the king could heal him or if he died in battle, the king could raise him to life again to rejoin the battle.

This presentation of Christ—plain to look at, but an obvious contrast to the status quo—demonstrates what Ephesians states: We battle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of wickedness in high places. Jesus is available to be that king, to go with us into the battle of our lives. He is the manna that has come down from heaven; He will heal our illness or injury; He will raise us from the dead, if we simply let Him rule our heart. The heart is where the battle is. It is the throne from which He leads His followers in joyful labor in the harvest fields for His kingdom. 

## GUYANA PROJECT



Missionaries  
-in-Training  
Greg, Chrystal,  
Brandon, and Serena  
VanFossen

VanFossen Launching Goal \$101,645

\$51,391 Still Needed

10% 30% 50% 70% 90%

\$1,707 Still Needed

VanFossen Monthly Support \$4,829



## Mahal Ka Ng Panginoong Jesus

Continued from cover



**Left:** The sign on the Sagpangan School building announces the medical outreach; **Below:** The dentist works on a patient.

help. We were tasked with the transport of people, food, medicine, and other supplies. Merilyn would help out with the medical outreach and I would help with the audio and video equipment. The mission was also supplying two laymen to work the area for two months. Pastor Faigao would be the main speaker and Mrs. Faigao would provide health lectures. A third mission agency was

also involved. This is a new ministry called, "Global Ministries of Missionary Nurses". The nurses would stay in the area for up to one year to provide health counseling,



member mentoring, and development of Bible study interest.

We arrived two days early to set up a camp ground at the small church. Since no running

water or electricity was available we used the truck to bring in water every day. We also set up a sound system, a projector, and a generator to provide electricity.

We started off with a medical outreach on Thursday that saw over four hundred patients in two days. The team also performed

**Above:** Tribal people wait to see the medical team;  
**Right:** Mothers and babies are evaluated.






**Right:** A young boy undergoes circumcision.



**Above and Below right:** Evening meetings took place in the Sagpangan Church.

31 minor surgeries that involved mostly children. Since this is a Tagbanua tribal area, most of the illnesses were due to poor nutrition and hygiene, thus the health lectures.

Pastor Faigao started the meetings on Friday night with the theme of “Jesus Loves You”. Since the Tagbanua interact with the spirit world in their daily lives he thought this might be a theme that would have the most impact. The message was on target. He spent a lot of time talking with people after the meetings answering questions.

These nightly meetings of Bible teaching came together nine days later. On Sabbath morning eight souls gave their lives to Christ in baptism at the local beach. Out of a village of about five hundred people this was truly a blessing of great magnitude. The work is only getting started. Two nurses will continue their work for one year in the village. There are also plans to bring in two laymen to continue after they are gone. The Holy Spirit is continuing the work here in Sagpangan in a powerful way. 

**PHILIPPINES PROJECT**



Ed, Merilyn, and Felicia Brennan

10%30%50%70%90%

\$584 Still Needed

Brennan Monthly Support \$4,790

Monthly People Group Sponsorship\* \$22,500

10%30%50%70%90%

\$22,308 Still Needed

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

**PHILIPPINES PROJECT**

10%30%50%70%90%

\$101,747 Still Needed

Mission Airbase Development \$350,000







# Delivering Hope

by Jud Wickwire

area. Such an isolated village, and somehow alcohol seems to be readily available and abused. During the holiday seasons, drinking is even more prevalent. Just the previous day, Laura had picked up two patients from a nearby village; one had been stabbed in the back and the other slashed multiple times on the head, arms and chest with a cutlass (machete).

While I don't know the individual circumstances of the cases, there is little doubt that alcohol abuse was a common denominator, and its effects go far beyond these individuals. There is always a "warm fuzzy" factor when transporting sick children or pregnant mothers, and in a case like this it is easy to overlook the stark reality that somewhere out in the jungle is a hut where six children are left without mother or father for an unpredictable period of time.

Climbing up through the cumulous clouds, I contemplated what we were doing to make a real difference here. This man would have faced certain death had I not flown in when I did. He still has to survive

case  
his con-  
dition was  
so dire that  
there was no asking. In the

ensuing few minutes, as we got him positioned and reasonably comfortable, I asked a few questions about his condition and what had happened.

It seems that he had been stabbed the previous day at 3:00 in the afternoon. In the intervening 17 hours, they had been unable to make contact with anyone for a medical evacuation, and by the time I arrived he had lost so much blood that the health worker could no longer keep an IV going. His wife was accompanying him; however, I was unable to communicate with her as she only spoke Carib. Not only was she distressed about her husband's condition, but in all likelihood she had never left her village before, much less flown in an airplane.

As I taxied down the muddy, trash-strewn airstrip, I had to watch carefully for broken glass or other hazards such as stray dogs or children. I couldn't help but consider the plight of the Amerindian people in this

**M**OST DAYS START OUT AS SOMEWHAT ordinary and then we are hit with the surprises. This morning I had a routine flight to drop off three people (who work in Guyana's election system) at a village so they could distribute ID cards.

As I taxied up in front of the Health Hut in the village, I noticed a small procession of people headed up the trail toward the plane; in the lead were two men half dragging a shirtless man between them. As they got closer, I could see that the one without a shirt had a large dressing in the middle of his chest held in place by a criss-crossing of tape. The passengers had not even climbed out yet, and they were already trying to get the injured man in the plane.

Normally, if there is someone who is sick or injured, I am asked if I am going to Georgetown and if there might be any space; in this

## 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.

medical intervention, but if he does, then for him and his family, the trip represents life itself. We have been invited to establish a presence in this village, and we are looking forward to doing that soon.


Later that day, I went back to the same village and met with the leader to discuss the needs of the community and how we might help. Health-related issues top the list, followed by education support and communication. The truth is that we all know what the problems are, but the solutions are somewhat less obvious; lack of purpose and little vision for the future certainly leave many people without hope.

The interesting thing about this request is that we have been serving this village for over two years with regular flights for medical emergencies, bringing patients back to their homes after treatment, transporting medical and dental teams as well as government officials, even flying in food at times when no other aircraft were available.

I think of Luke 10 where the

lawyer came to Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus prompted him to answer his own question; *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."* Jesus then went on to tell the story we all know as "The Good Samaritan." So what is the application here?

Perhaps, by God's grace, we can demonstrate in some small way a bit of that unselfish

love to those around us, to show that there is hope in Jesus. That hope can be the first step toward a heart open to salvation and a life filled with love and purpose. 







# AWA Partners Impact Lives

by Bill and Laura LaBore

**W**e know it's only June and not the season of Thanksgiving yet, but we wanted to take this time to share how our investors are making a difference in Guyana and to let you know how thankful and grateful we are for your participation! Some of you have gotten involved in very creative ways, which has truly touched the hearts of not only the Guyanese, but our team as well. We would like to share a few examples.

A group in Canada has been sending Beanie Babies in boxes. You may wonder why we would need these! Most children that we fly are SO poor that a majority of them will never own a stuffed animal or doll in their life. Many we fly don't even have shoes! We keep a bag full of Beanie Babies in the tail of the plane and whenever we have a child or infant, we give one to them. When there is a sick child going into the hospital in the city, it can be very scary, not only for the child, but for the adults as well. Many of them have never left the jungle. Having to endure the hardships of being in a hospital

where you have to bring your own toiletries, eating utensils and sheets can be overwhelming especially if you sleep in a hammock!

We hope that having a stuffed animal can help a little. Thank you!

Then, there was the donor who volunteered to provide a micro loan of \$200 that we can loan to those who are interested in starting a business to help earn a living. There is a very hard-working lady here who sells snacks and juice for a living. With the micro loan, she was able to buy a small refrigerator so that now her food will keep longer and



**Top:** The mother and newborn of the story arrive home to a warm greeting by the whole family; **Above:** Another Mother and baby head home with newborn clothes and stuffed toy; **Right:** the business owner and her refrigerator.





her juice will be cold to sell. She is paying that back steadily at \$5.00 a day. She hopes to borrow it again when it's paid off to buy a small generator to power the refrigerator. Right now we have electricity from 6:00 PM until 11:00 PM, but with a generator, she can actually freeze her drinks to what they call "Hard Cool Down"- a HUGE seller here when it's SO hot! When she has paid that off, we will lend it out to someone else who would be a good candidate. Thank you!

Another wonderful person on the other side of the world read about the need for baby clothes from our blog at: [www.wfhguyana.org](http://www.wfhguyana.org). When women come to the local hospital to give birth, they are expected to bring with them baby clothes, diapers, sanitary pads, eating utensils and all their toiletries and blankets. Some women who come in off the river can't possibly afford to buy these things. Because of this kind woman's donations, we now have little bags made up that have cloth and disposable diapers, plastic covers for the diapers, an outfit, hat, socks, blanket, etc. The moms are SO happy to get them, and it's been fun to give them out. In the past, I've seen the mom go home with the baby just wearing a towel or rag between its legs, wrapped in an old blanket. Now they can go home in decent style! Thank you!!!

We could go on and on, thanking you for the sacrifices that you've made. THANK YOU! You have made an impact. You have made a difference.

Thank you too for those who, month by month, are contributing financially. We couldn't possibly tell all



**Above and Left:** Mothers and new babies go home with beanie babies;  
**Below:** A brother shows off a new infant's attire, all given by AWA Partners.



the stories of people who have been helped and have been shown the love of Jesus because of you.

One poor woman had to be flown into town because she was having complications with her pregnancy. She gave birth in the city and then needed to be flown back to her remote village. In her village, they speak the Carib language, so Laura had to get by with hand motions to get her and her baby into the plane and buckled in. These stoic people do not often show emotion, so it is quite infrequent that someone will tell us how grateful they are. When there's a language barrier, it's even tougher. We can see it on their faces, though.

When Laura dropped the Carib lady off, her whole family was waiting at the airstrip. The father of the new baby came, and as soon as he held him in his arms, he bent over and kissed the little guy on the lips. It was just such a sweet and precious moment because we don't see it very often. It spoke volumes of how happy the dad was to have his family home. The Pathfinder plane not only works to take out the sick, but to reunite them again when they are well. Thank you for making these wonderful events possible! AWA



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	
\$1,055 Still Needed	
10%	30%
50%	70%
90%	
* \$250 monthly provides air and communication service to Bible workers in one of the unreached jungle villages.	

# AWA-PA Milestones

by Eric Engen

**T**HERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN life. Many are mundane, like ticking off another birthday. Some are the result of years of work, like graduating from academy or college. Others are profound, like the birth of a child. However, the events that really stand out share some things in common. They are special because they can only happen once, they often mark the beginning of something new and wonderful in your life and above all they are rare.\*

The first really big milestone any student pilot looks forward to is his first solo. AWA-PA flight training students experienced this thrill twice this school year. On March 25, Ricardo took to the skies without the extra weight of a flight instructor sitting in the right seat. And on May 11, Kelsey took her first solo flight. They each reported that the performance of the Cessna 150 improved tremendously when they only had themselves to haul around in the airplane!

There is a time-honored tradition that follows first-time student solo flights. It involves clipping the shirt

tail of the newly soloed pilot. Most student pilots get to experience this little ceremony on the ground immediately after they return from doing their three solo take-offs and landings. Not so with Ricardo and Kelsey—they had their shirt tails clipped in front of 200 of their cheering and clapping classmates



Ricardo,  
Eric Engen, and  
CFI Earl Binder.



Kelsey,  
and Earl Binder



during assembly program at Blue Mountain Academy!

This tradition of shirt tail clipping goes back to the days when training aircraft had open cockpits, and the seating was tandem—the student pilot sat in the front seat, and the instructor sat in the back seat. If he wanted

to get the student's attention, the instructor would reach forward and yank on the shirt tail of the student, then try to communicate some important jewel of wisdom relating to the improvement of student's performance. Clipping off the shirt tails signifies that the student is capable of flying without the instructor's input and advice—he can figure it out on his own.

Congratulations to Ricardo and Kelsey for reaching this momentous point in their training. It is not the end, but it does signify that they are moving toward completing their goal of earning their pilot's license through *Adventist World Aviation's affiliation with Blue Mountain Academy.* AWA

\*The first paragraph of this article is adapted from a student pilot blog found at <http://www.brenorbrophy.com/fightLog.htm#f26>.



# Strategic Partnerships!

by Sam Miller

**T**HE PAST YEAR HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF successes, a few failures and plenty of character-building opportunities. As difficult as it has been at times, I thank God for those trying times, especially while our program is young. It is much easier to bend, tweak and redesign a young course, than try to move a well-established, mature program. We have passed some tests, accomplished a lot of firsts, and along the way we have deepened our existing friendships and established a few new ones.

As the school year is coming to a close, we are anticipating a couple of check rides and some continued experiences over the summer. Since the check rides haven't taken place yet, I will have to report specifically on them in the next issue. Over the summer

In our infancy, we have had a real need for outside support. As we have started training, and along the way, we have had the opportunity to not only find that support, but also make a few friends. I'd like to take a moment to mention a few, and thank them for their support. Without them, our task would be much more difficult.

One of the first friends we were able to make was Crossville Aero at the Crossville, TN airport where we currently base our airplane. Mr. Chris Bennett, the owner, has continuously given our airplane and students special care and has lent his support in many different ways over the past year and a half. Even though we are hopeful to have a runway on our campus next year, the relationship with Crossville Aero will

continue to be strong, and we will continue to rely on them for various support items. Not only are they a great help, but it is also an opportunity for our students to interact and reach out to the community around us.

Another friend we have made resides in Tompkinsville, KY. Mr. Jon Foote and his

wife Lori, operate Tompkinsville Aviation along with a mission organization called Missionaire International at the Tompkinsville/Monroe County Airport. They do excellent maintenance and specialize in aircraft refurbishment, both inside and out. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent facility so close, just a 40 minute flight in our Cessna 150, to perform our scheduled maintenance. I am looking forward to getting the students more actively involved next year in the maintenance of our airplane, and Jon has agreed to help us in that area.

A more recent friend we have developed is Mr. Grant Goodge from Knoxville, TN. He is a climatologist and pilot who has worked for, and with, The National Weather Service, NOAA and many other agencies. He has written innumerable articles for various publications and has been called as an expert witness in aviation weather many times. Mr. Goodge recently visited our campus and gave a beautiful presentation about weather to our flight students. He showed how weather develops, how it affects flight, and some of the key indicators to look for when predicting weather changes.

We haven't forgotten those who have quietly donated to our program, allowing us to continue to improve our airplane and enhance our student's training experience. It is only through the Lord that these valuable connections and friendships were made. It's incredible to see the blessing they continue to be to our aviation program. I can only imagine the blessings God is giving them in return for their kindness and support. *AWA*

Ms. Heidi Beierle will be traveling to Bolivia to help in some mission work, and there is a good possibility that another one of our students will be involved in mission work this summer as well. Mr. A.J. McGee, who graduated this year from Heritage Academy, will be continuing his aviation training as he attends Andrews University in the fall. It's exciting to see all the sacrifice, effort and study finally come to fruition for the students. I am proud of each and every one of them for all of their individual successes, their maturity in the face of disappointments, and their enduring patience.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR
STEVE VORIES (SON)	BARBARA L. VORIES	HAROLD P. HOOVER	ESTHER P. SHARPES	ARLENE SEIPMAN	REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME	ALL MISSIONARY PILOTS	ANTHONY & MARGARITA BONILLA
BERT BALL	LEONARD & RUTH HARBESON	OSEAS IMPERIO SR.	ERNIE & ANNABELLE LOPEZ	OSEAS IMPERIO SR.	ERNIE & ANNABELLE LOPEZ	NANCY LEE SCHUMACHER	ARTHUR & NANCYLEE SCHUMACHER
JOSEPH S. BIRD SR	STEVE & MARY LOU PRIDE	LORI F. KEPPEL	LOUNETTE I HINKLE	SEVERO LOGPEZ SR.	ERNIE & ANNABELLE LOPEZ	(BIRTHDAY)	
GLADYS CARRIER	DONALD D. CARRIER	MILTON KING	LOUIS & EVELYN MEYER				
AGNES CHRISTENSEN	KENNETH & SHERYL CHRISTENSEN	NAOMI KOPITZKE	BEULAH S. DALTON				
DOROTHY DAVIDSON	DEBORAH J. SZASZ	JOHN M. LASWELL	FRANCES & HARRELL SHAVER				
Dr. & Mrs. J. L. DeWitt	LYNDON & MARTHA DeWITT	RUBEN LeGASPI	ELIZABETH D. LeGASPI				
JIM & LARRY STARLIN	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ	JOHN, PHYLLIS & VERN LIBBY	LEONARD & RUTH HARBESON				
MAE STOUT	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ	ROBERT LITTLE SR.	REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME				
DOROTHY FRASER	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ	JIM & LARRY STARLIN	CHARLENE STARLIN				
ROBERT M. FERGUSON	MERLE V. PRUSIA	GERARD NIKKELS	JOHANNES & ESTHER NIKKELS				
BERTHA GRINDSTAFF	STEVE & MARY LOU PRIDE	BARBARA ROY	REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME				


## Sandpoint, ID

**Quest Aircraft Company** received FAA authorization for an increased ramp weight of 505 lbs for the Kodiak raising maximum ramp weight to 7,305 lbs and maximum takeoff weight to 7,255 lbs. Synthetic vision displayed on the Garmin G1000 is now standard on all orders. Testing and certification of a TKS icing protection system and the long-awaited cargo pod is well along in process.

Mission aviation agencies that have taken delivery of the Kodiak report, that while there are the customary growing pains of any new piece of equipment, the Kodiak is making what some term a revolutionary impact on productivity in the mission field. One of the greatest testimonies to Quest's commitment to its missionary customers is that the operators consistently comment on how responsive the factory is to opportunities to improve its product.

## Tucson, AZ

United Indian Mission hosted the 2010 International Association of Missionary Aviation Annual Conference April 21-23. One of the many benefits of IAMA membership is the networking opportunity afforded the various ministries. AWA is blessed to partner with or utilize the services of several IAMA member ministries.

A unique feature to this year's annual conference was the opportunity for members to participate in a Fort Sherman Academy hostage seminar April 19-20. FSA is one of the largest providers in the world for travel security courses, crime survival, crisis management instruction and high-risk hostage survival training to civilians and faith-based workers. FSA has trained over 16,000 short and long-term missionary personnel worldwide in courses varying from the most basic training to the most advanced to include full, practical exercises. Sixty-eight graduates have since endured a kidnapping, illegal detention, carjacking, home invasion, or other violent crime in the course of their work or travel overseas - 67 of those graduates are alive and free. Mission agencies indicate that without training, survival of such events is slightly better than 50 percent. 



Don Starlin, Jud Wickwire and AWA volunteer, Bruce Wilkerson, attended the IAMA conference.

AWA KODIAK AIRPLANE #1 GOAL \$1,125,000				
NCCF Matching Grant		AWA Donors		+ \$375,000 Due on Delivery
\$1,028,524 Raised		\$137,095 Still Needed		
16.5%	33%	50%	67%	83.5%



## A Day in the Life of a Missionary Pilot

Continued from page 15

and over again for visiting them. It truly was a spiritually uplifting Sabbath.

We left Sunday morning at 6:00 AM because Bill had another heavy day of flying ahead. The entire church showed up at the airstrip to see us off. Some of them had been there since 5:30 AM just to make sure they didn't miss watching "their" plane take off.

Now it was time to go pick up the rest of the team members. We flew back to Alotau where we left the group that had been in Misima with us. After refuelling, we then

Aguan



Misima Church


flew out to the extremely remote island of Woodlark to pick up the next team. The sand was so white it almost blinded me, and there was no one crowding the beach. Bill only allowed me enough time to run down to the beach and take a picture. I didn't even get to put my toes in the water!

Our next destination was the island of Kiriwina to pick up the last team members. Kiriwina is part of the Trobriand Islands group. Yams are a very important part of Trobriand culture. Because they are a sign of prestige and a tie between villages and clans, the quality and size of a yam is very important. As part of a goodwill gesture, our team was given this huge yam as a gift. (The yam is packaged up in these leaves that Bill is holding.) It was probably 4 feet long! From there, we returned to Alotau to refuel and pick up the rest of the team we had dropped off earlier, then headed back to Popendetta to drop off all but two of our team members. We picked

up a couple of students and flew them to their home village of Kira on our way back to Lae, where we dropped off the last of the remaining team members.



tired but happy after an eventful weekend. While the trip was fun and exciting for me, it was just work as usual for Bill. This is typical of what our pilots do on a regular basis, bringing encouragement and hope into the lives of so many people.

Adventist Aviation PNG has stepped out in faith and ordered a second PAC-750XL aircraft to enable us to always have an aircraft available to serve the needs of the church and the remote communities in Papua New Guinea. At present, every six weeks there is no program while the aircraft is out of service for one-two weeks undergoing scheduled maintenance. The addition of this second aircraft will see our ministry increase significantly. We currently need only UD\$230,000 more to be able to pay cash for this US\$1.7M aircraft. If you would like to support our ministry, donations can be forwarded through Adventist World Aviation. 

Medical workers

We picked up a load of building supplies for Kabiufa and found Terry McHugh (our Union Accountant) waiting to see if he could hitch a ride back to Goroka with us. We arrived back in Goroka around 5:00 PM,





# Papua New Guinea

## A Day in the Life of a Mission Pilot

by Bonnie Norton,  
wife of an AAS Mission Pilot

**R**ECENTLY I HAD THE ENCOURAGING experience of flying for a weekend with my pilot husband Bill. It began with a heavy flight schedule on Friday. We left home at 6:00 AM so we could be wheels up by 7:00 AM. Our first destination was the coastal town of Madang, where we took a planeload of staff from Pacific Helicopters for some R&R. From Madang we flew down to Lae, where our church union headquarters are located, to pick up a load of Bibles, school supplies and a church elder.

Our next destination was the town of Popenдетта which is the headquarters for the North East Papua Mission. During WWII, the Japanese had several bases around the Popenдетта region, which was the site of some of the most desperate fighting of the war. From the air one can clearly see several horseshoe-shaped mounds scattered around the airstrip, apparently the remains of gun emplacements. The airstrip has an old wrecked B-25 on display.

We dropped off the school supplies and church elder and continued on our journey down to Alotau, a little town built on the shores of Milne Bay—another significant WWII historical site. The Japanese were attempting

to reach Port Moresby (the only remaining Australian stronghold in PNG) via the famous Kokoda track. In a flanking move, the Japanese landed at Milne Bay but were repulsed after a bloody 10-day battle with Australian troops.



The village welcomes their airplane.

After dropping off the Bibles for the mission, we met up with the director of the Provincial Government Health Department. He had a load of medicines and health workers needing to be delivered



Bonnie and Bill enroute.

to the remote village of Agaun up in the mountains. He was so grateful that the plane was available to deliver the medicines and thanked us over and over again for the service. It normally takes about two weeks to hike in any supplies to this region.

Our flight out to Agaun was filled with spectacular scenery of sharp, razorback mountains, deep gorges with rivers rushing through them and half a dozen waterfalls feeding these rivers. After making our delivery, we returned to Alotau to refuel the airplane for the remainder of the trip. There is no fuel available at the airport, so Bill had special-ordered seven drums of fuel earlier in the week so we would have some when we arrived.

The week before, Bill had flown several teams of pastors and their wives to some of these remote islands to nurture our church members there. Now we were heading back to pick up all these team members. In the process, we decided to spend Sabbath with our church group at Misima. Leaving Alotau, we flew off across the ocean for an hour, passing dozens of little islands en route before arriving at Misima around 5:00 PM. Misima is an absolutely spectacular mountainous island. It is extremely rugged, with little gorges, inlets and waterfalls



The team taking off for R&R.



everywhere. The crystal clear water is an intense mixture of colors - turquoise, green, and dark blue. Dozens of little fishing villages dot the shoreline. The end of the island tapers off to flatlands, and this is where the main town and airstrip are located.

The church members were so excited that “their airplane and pilot” were coming to spend Sabbath with them. It had been eight years since they had any kind of visitation from pastors or missionaries! They gave us the royal welcome, showering us with flowers and joyfully escorting us to the little church where they had a feast waiting for us.

Several years ago, when funds were being raised around the world to purchase the new airplane, the people of PNG gave what they could to help. Because of their truly sacrificial giving, they have a strong sense of ownership and proudly embrace the airplane as theirs. This particular group had made a goal for every member to give 10 kina (US\$4). They dubbed the airplane “Our 10 kina airplane.” This was their first opportunity to see the new airplane that they had “bought”, and they were so proud of it. They excitedly told everybody they met that this was “their” airplane.

Bill had brought his guitar and they loved singing with him. Then they begged him to share some aviation stories. So he obliged, giving them a lesson on how an airplane flies



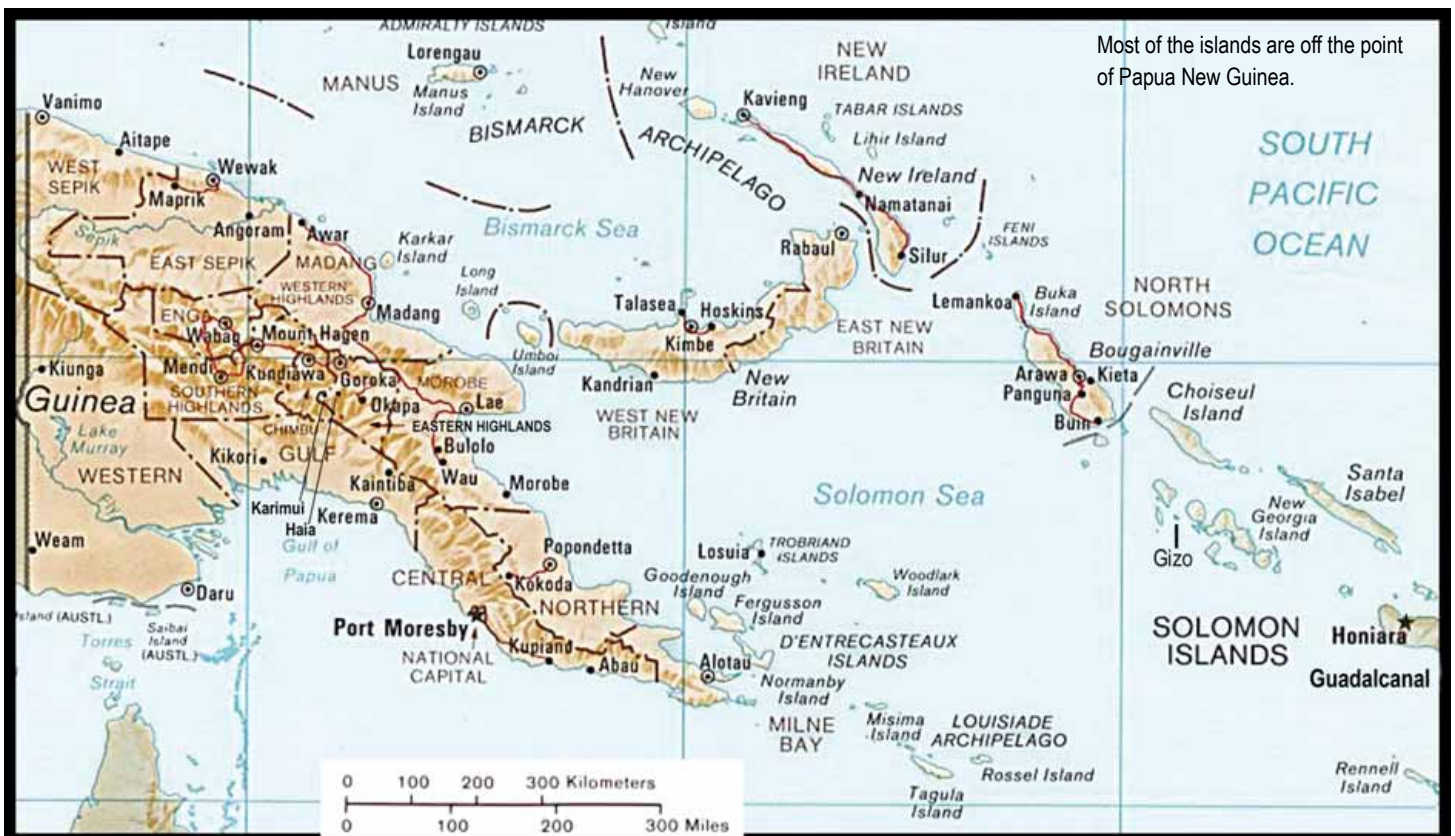
The Misima church.

and sharing some of his flying experiences over the years. When he tried to sit down once, they asked him to keep telling stories, and later in the afternoon they complained that he hadn’t told enough stories!

After the church service on Sabbath we all trooped down to the beach for the baptism of 18 new members. The church members had the beach all decorated with flowers for the baptism and throughout the baptism, they would throw handfuls of flowers out onto the water. After lunch we were taken on a tour of the little town, then attempted, in

spite of the almost unbearable heat, to take a nap before the evening meetings began. The evening meetings lasted until 10:00 PM, and everybody sat with rapt attention throughout the whole thing—even the children. The children were all sitting on the concrete floor at the front of the church. One by one, they gave way to sleep until the floor was covered with sleeping children. At the end of the service they called our team to the front and showered us with gifts, thanking us over

*(Continued on page 13)*



Most of the islands are off the point of Papua New Guinea.

# Spring in Alaska by Jim Kincaid

EVERY YEAR THE ADVENTIST PEOPLE OF NORTH-western Alaska look forward to the spring gathering known as the Native Campmeeting. It is a time when a representative group of native and non-native residents of the little villages and hamlets gather for a spiritual feast. This year the location was again the historic gold mining town of Nome, Alaska. Guests included Monte Church, Native Ministries Director for the North Pacific Union, Ed Dunn, Alaska Conference Secretary, and musician Bruce Twing of Portland, Oregon. Of the more than 50 people who were gathered about 20 hailed from Kotzebue and Selawik.

Reports of the advance of the God's work around the world and the opening of the Word in a relevant way serve to broaden one's view—going beyond the confines of the small village and the small group of people who meet Sabbath to Sabbath. This year Daniel Ramoth and Flo Savok from Selawik took the opportunity to attend and were blessed to make the acquaintance of Carol Seppilu, a suicide attempt survivor whose picture accompanies this story. Carol now is an ambassador for sobriety and positive choices among her peers. She plans to attend Certified Nursing Assistant training in the near future.

Suicide in Alaska among youth is more than four times higher than the national average. This is one of focal issues that challenges Adventist mission in the "last frontier."



Church Members from Nome, Kotzebue, Selawik, St Lawrence Island and other places were blessed to attend the high spiritual gathering. AWA affiliated aircraft were instrumental in the transport of some of the guests.



**Right:** Flo Savok (left) and Daniel Ramoth from Selawik met Carol Seppilu (center) from Savoonga for the first time at the Nome Campmeeting. Carol has had many surgeries to correct the damage to her face caused by a self-inflicted gun shot. Carol is now an ambassador of sobriety and a committed friend of God. She recognizes the miracle wrought in her life. She shares her commitment with other native young people.

ALASKA PROJECT				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
<div></div>				
\$56,923 Still Needed				
Dillingham Hangar and Land \$100,000				

## FLIGHT LOG →

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