

FLIGHT LOG →

WINTER 2011

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 1

FOR THE FRIENDS OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

GUYANA Building Healthier Lives



406 patients treated
722 teeth extracted

by Jud Wickwire

Jungle Date, October 10, 2010: “Hey Jud, do you guys need some dentists, and are you able to host a few of us from November 5-14?” was the message we received from our dentist friend, Jonathan Visscher. “Sure,” I replied, just before head-

ing off to bed. The next morning I was up early and there was a reply waiting for me from Laila Mikelwait, the director of New Reality International (NRI) stating, “We will

be arriving in Georgetown on November 7th at 6:44 AM on Delta flight 383.”

Laila was clearly a woman of action and now we had to show that we could hold up our end of the logistical arrangement. We

(Continued on page 6)





Don Starlin,
President

Building the Kingdom: Disease-Despair-Death



Health-Hope-Life



Baramita

THE ABOVE SOUND BITE IS BUT A FEEBLE ATTEMPT to articulate *AWA's* impact. Mere words convey neither temporal nor eternal weight of their reality.

From less than a quarter mile away, obscured by South American jungle, yet within earshot I heard the engine start. I mentally followed Laura LaBore as engine RPM and propeller pitch changes proclaimed her position on the pre-takeoff checklist. At last the engine wound up to full take-off power as 280 horses pulled the bright yellow Pathfinder Airplane down the runway and launched it into the air. Executing a standard left-hand pattern departure, Laura banked the climbing Cessna 182 over the village of Mabaruma, passed over Kumaka, and disappeared to the South on yet another mission of mercy.

As I watched the airplane fade from sight I recalled a few of the nearly 1,500 Pathfinders who worked with *AWA* staff and volunteers on the airplane and/or raised money to place it in Guyana. I wondered if they grasp the implications of their work – if they realize that the sound of the approaching airplane signifies the difference between life and death for hundreds of the 21,000 people living in Guyana's Region 1.

Dear Revelation 14:6 partner, in the day-to-day struggle that is "*Flying on God's Mission*" there are times when, like John the Baptist, we all ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Matt. 11:3. NIV, i.e., "Is this really the ministry you called me to work with and support prayerfully, financially, giving of my time and effort, or do you have something else for me to do?"

The eternal voice of Jesus replies: "Go back and report to John what you hear and see." Matt. 11:4 NIV.

As a fellow disciple and witness please allow me to share a little of what I've seen and heard.

Building Community:

Word spread that the LaBores were leaving on furlough so several of the local leaders engineered a surprise going away party at the LaBore residence. The group included a local administrator, the chief of police for Region 1, Peace Corps/Volunteer Service Organization volunteers and other grateful Mabaruma citizens.

The LaBore's involvement in community life has obviously endeared them to the people. Bill functions as *AWA/WFH* Project Manager and head elder of the local SDA Church. He routinely gives Bible studies to all who express interest, and chairs the community's Computer Education Center board. Laura conducts children's Sabbath School, volunteers at the local hospital, feeds half the neighborhood children, and is loved by everyone. In a culture that keeps "gate friends" beyond the fence, the fact that the community felt comfortable to plan a surprise party at the LaBore house spoke volumes. It was also notable that most of the participants were not members of the church!

Facilitating Education: Jud, Trudi and I loaded N59WA with supplies and a generator belonging to the government teacher scheduled

to fly back to Baramita. After landing in Baramita and disgorging the teacher and his goods, Jud departed on another freight/passenger run while the Tachau (indigenous leader) simply said: "Walk with me."

Service Opens Closed Villages: As we proceeded down the runway I recalled that only a couple of years earlier the same village proclaimed they would accept the health/medical services *AWA/WFH* facilitated in partnership with the Ministry of Health, but wanted nothing to do with blessings the government official (a Hindu) suggested our team possessed. Our pilots faithfully responded to village emergencies flying out sick, wounded, and dying. Should they have remained in Baramita, many of those passengers would have faced almost certain death. Most
(Continued on page 9)

Cover (left to right) Patients are worked on by the team in Baramita. **Inset:** Men on the left from the village bring the team fresh coconuts to drink: starting just to the left of blue scrubs, Mandy Mortensen, then left, Anthony Berdan, Shannon Marie Robinson, Laila Mickelwait, Jonathan Visscher, Joel Mickelwait, Bradley Proud.

FLIGHT LOG →

Vol. 17 No.1
WINTER 2011

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.

God's cure for Animism

by Greg VanFossen

I WAS WORKING IN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT in 1990 while doing my graduate studies when I overheard a conversation between two nurses. One was complaining to the other that she had a female relative who had “found Jesus” and “everything is Jesus this and Jesus that”. This relative couldn’t talk about anything without including Jesus.

My contemplation of this brings a few things to my frontal lobe. First, I can empathize with the nurse’s reaction to her relative putting so much of herself into the philosophy of a man that lived 2,000 years ago. I can also appreciate how ‘simplistic’ the answer to life’s many difficulties may seem when offered as “just turning them over to Jesus”. I have come to the realization that the battle against this perspective is more difficult than all the ‘brain-washing’ of my early education is capable of overcoming. The answers, from a logical standpoint, are an oversimplification in a world where complexity is developed so we can survive without having to think. We are told in school to learn how to deliberate. But our society, expressed through the media and other sources, exhibits a condescending demeanor toward anyone who, following a different agenda, chooses to exercise their God-given ability to reason.

In the dark ages, the church physically prevented the knowledge of God by literally chaining the written word of God to the wall. Today, we see that knowledge and faith in God are publicly quarantined by accusing them as trite or being held by only the most naïve people.

In the course of working alongside God building our support team we have made a couple of significant observations. First, God is truly the one in control of this mission. While we sing and talk about God at church, how much of our lives do we really allow God to control? I battle against telling God how I think things should be rather than allowing Him to reveal His plan and cooperate.

Second, I am beginning to better appreciate how syncretism exists within my own personal life and that of my fellow church members in North America.

I have been to the mission field and observed the health issues and the great want of not only material things, but for reconciliation with God. In developing nations, solutions to poverty, poor health, and distance from God are often sought in the rites, incantations, and sacrifices of shamans, witch doctors and voodoo priests. People work to appease the spirits by manipulation. They don’t live with them in peace and harmony. The only real difference between developing and developed nations, is that animism here has a different face. The media pushes a ‘New Age’ agenda by encouraging us to look to the ‘old ways’ to the exclusion of Christianity entirely. Big movie hits like “Avatar” and “Lion King” are specific examples. Contrary to their message of peaceful,

holistic co-existence, real animistic cultures live in overt fear.

North Americans live a similar life of fear. We have created institutions like the Homeland Security Administration, Transportation Security Administration and legislated a socialized health care scheme designed to improve our perceived security, but at what price? It is now more cumbersome to go

anywhere, but are we any safer or healthier? All this from fear!

So what difference does this understanding make?

Perhaps it is better to dwell more on God’s will and make the adjustments necessary to be in alignment with it.

So now we are back where we started—looking at Jesus. C. S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*, points out that if you consider what Jesus said, you must conclude that He is either a lunatic, or He is who He says He is and you must worship Him as God. There is no middle ground.

If I conclude that Jesus is God, then allowing the One who created me into my


If I conclude that Jesus is God, then allowing the One who created me into my life to the extent that He permeates every dimension might not be so ‘dogmatic’. It merely pushes the ‘animism’ out of my life.

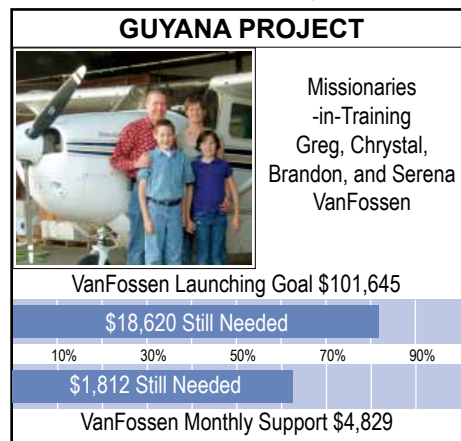


In Guyana, Chrystal listens as a miner explains the process of removing the overburden to access the gold.

life to the extent that He permeates every dimension might not be so ‘dogmatic’. It merely pushes the ‘animism’ out of my life.

Luke 8:3 and 15:36 relate how Jesus was the recipient of provisions from His followers. Though He didn’t come into the world to be ministered to (Matt 20:28), He demonstrated that developing a habit of supporting those who minister is essential for the spiritual growth of His followers. We see in the book of Acts, after the ascension of Jesus, that Christians started providing support for each other; sacrificing their own comfort to help those in a more desperate situation. Is it possible for Christians of North America to develop that same focus despite the ‘materialistic animism’ that pervades our society?

AWA’s operational philosophy intentionally incorporates this very concept. Each missionary family is but the front line of an entire team that includes prayer, financial and volunteer warrior partners. At the beginning of this new year, we would be remiss if we did not extend an invitation for you to join us and make this year all about Jesus—extending His Kingdom. 





Impacting and Expanding the Kingdom!

by Bill and Laura LaBore

“**L**AURA, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BARAMITA in the 182 and pick up the Tachau (captain, chief or leader of the village) and fly him to Georgetown. They have a big conference for all the Tachaus in Guyana this week. Afterwards, you can fly some people back to their village on your way home. Meanwhile, I'll fly the local surgeons that worked here this weekend back to Georgetown in the 206 and then return with a load of people and supplies that need to go back to Mabaruma.” Jud and Laura were making the final flight arrangements for the day. They had the same departure times; so together, they went to the Mabaruma airstrip to preflight the airplanes.

A load of doctors flown in for the weekend to work at the Mabaruma Community Hospital needed to return to Georgetown. The medical team piled out of the truck that transported them to the airstrip and climbed into the 206 with Jud. Laura helped buckle them into the airplane as Jud finished his preflight, then she completed her own preflight. Once they were airborne, they navigated different headings with Laura

charting her course south to the remote village of Baramita and then east into Georgetown. While enroute to Georgetown, Laura got word that upon landing in Georgetown Jud had received a request for a Med-evac. So he was off again to pick up a lady who was vomiting blood. Since he was closer to town, he was able to relay flight communi-

cations for Laura; delivering her times of arrival and other information to the flight control center in Georgetown.

Having two pilots on our team that work well together and two operational airplanes is a tremendous blessing that leverages the impact of the team. For the first time in Wings for Humanity history, we have two functional airplanes and pilots to match. All we can say is Praise God!

Greg VanFossen and Laura ferried the Cessna 206 aircraft down from the U.S. in July, 2009. Upon arriving in Guyana, it was flown for about 200 hours before metal was discovered in the engine oil during regular servicing. The aircraft was grounded and the engine overhauled. It wasn't until May of this year, that we were able to install the overhauled engine and get it up and


running again. The Wickwires then went on furlough from June through July of 2010, so it's only been recently that we've had two planes and pilots to perform flight operations at the same time! This has more than doubled our capabilities to handle medical evacu-

ations, transport emergency cargo, position medical teams and have a greater impact on lives in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

Typically, we use the Cessna 182 for missions like Med-evacs. The Cessna 206 is utilized when there is a need for hauling larger loads of cargo and/or people. Two airplanes also mean less program downtime.

Last week one airplane was grounded for repairs, but we were able to keep operations going by utilizing the other. They also have the same engine, so we're able to swap parts if necessary!

The aforementioned story would not have gone as smoothly, nor would the woman have received help as quickly if we had only one airplane. We are constantly amazed at how God knows exactly what we need, and His timing is ALWAYS perfect. Our team is very grateful to all of the *Flight Log* readers who have helped make this project a reality. If you aren't on board as a regular partner for this project, would you consider joining our family or perhaps helping to support aircraft operations? Together we can make a difference in people's lives now and for eternity.

Editor's Note: The LaBore budget is updated to reflect increased costs of home-schooling and living expenses. They have courageously remained within their monthly budget since launching five years ago. 

*This has more than doubled
our capabilities
to handle . . . and have
a greater impact on lives
in this part of
the Lord's vineyard.*

GUYANA PROJECT	
	Bill, Laura, Danielle, and Micah LaBore
	LaBore Monthly Goal \$4,625
Goal Reached This Quarter - Thank You!	
10%	30%
50%	70%
90%	
Monthly Sponsorship-10 Villages* Goal \$2,500	
\$444 Still Needed	
10%	30%
50%	70%
90%	
* \$250 monthly provides air and communication service to Bible workers in one of the unreached jungle villages.	

Thank
You!!

PHILIPPINES

The Call Requires Training

by Fletcher Grahn

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PLAN? SOMETHING you really wanted to do...I mean REALLY wanted to do, and for the life of you, no matter what you tried, it just didn't happen? Frustrating isn't it? For me, this hasn't happened very often, but when it has, boy did I get irked. I mean, when I wanted to do something, I wanted to do it now and I was pretty good at creating solutions to obstacles that stood between me and my goals. Understand, I didn't have this dogged determination that often, since I really didn't care most of the time one way or the other about anything. Mostly, if it took an inordinate amount of work, I probably wasn't going to be interested: that is, unless I determined the 'fun factor' outweighed the 'work factor'. Then I could be down right rabid about reaching my goal. And if I failed to reach one of those goals, it was extremely frustrating.

Now this may seem like some interesting trivia about my past, but what, you may ask (if not, I'll ask it for you...), does this have to do with Missions? Glad you asked! Answer: Everything!

A bit of background first: I first learned of AWA back on December 31, 2006. I emailed the organization that very day, a step which began a journey that has continued ever since. This process included nearly a year and a half of God taking time to free me from my former commitments and linking the mission with one of its future volunteers; a resource without whom, this mission would be years behind where it is now. After that, came maintenance training and sharing the vision of the mission for nearly two years while living in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The last six months, I have temporarily relocated back to my home state of Wisconsin to complete the final portion of sharing the vision and pulling together those God has called to partner with this team in its work of spreading the Gospel in the Philippines.

In my past life, this kind of thing would never have been considered. Now I did some pretty extreme things before, things like cross-country cycle racing for seven days straight without a break. But that never took long to prepare for. One could train for a few months, and then off to enjoy the 'fun factor' in a race. With something like this

mission, looking down through the years of 'work factor' before ever coming close to experiencing any fun at all was simply not acceptable in my former life. No matter what the 'fun factor' was. I simply wasn't interested in committing that much time of my life to anything!

*... it has taken
every minute
of those four years
to
learn the lessons
God needed
me to learn.*

Today I look back over these past few years, and had I known how long it was going to take, I'm not sure what decision I would have made back in 2006. Would I have contacted AWA? I don't know. As I sit here and look back at the experience though, I am not the same man I was four years ago. I know that it has taken every minute of those four years to learn the lessons God needed me to learn. Lessons of patience, trust, focus, commitment, surrender, sacrifice and probably most of all, that the 'fun factor' is really irrelevant. So is the 'work factor'. What truly matters now in my decision making process is the 'salvation factor'. Am I saved? What can I do to help others find that same salvation? Everything else is just dust in the wind.

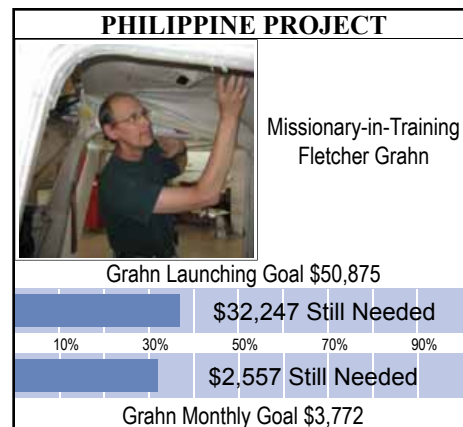
Don't get me wrong; God's work is not all drab and drudgery. There is a joy and fulfillment unlike anything the world can offer. It's just that I no longer base my decisions on the reward of thrill, but rather true happiness and fulfillment in the knowledge that we are blessed by being instruments in the hand of God for the salvation of our

brothers and sisters. This is a joy that will last for all eternity, not just fade away with the whim and fad of society.

You remember that part about doing everything I could to reach my goals? This is another of those great and most difficult lessons that God has been teaching me. It's not my creative solution skills that matter, it's my trust in God's saving skills that do. He knows what He's doing and the timing for each and every step along the way. It's learning to stop trying to tell Him how I think it should go, and rejoice in how He leads. After all, isn't He the one who called me to begin with and asked me to FOLLOW Him? *AWAY*



Below: Fletcher and Jeff Bell prep the wings of a donated GlaStar for paint. In addition to valuable maintenance experience gained, the finished aircraft is intended for use by AWA missionaries-in-training to build time and promote the mission.



Building Healthier Lives

Continued from Cover

needed to obtain temporary dental licenses and permissions, send notifications to several government departments, councils, village captains and health workers and make arrangements for working areas, accommodations, food, transportation, budget and more. Karen, a dental hygienist, led the arrangements with the Dental Council. She has worked with many of them before on dental outreach projects, so plans were made without difficulty. NRI is well organized and self-contained so we didn't have to worry about the dental related equipment or supplies.

I was waiting for the team at the international airport outside Georgetown when they arrived. Due to the size of the group, it took over an hour to escape the arrivals area. Everything went fine and we loaded everyone into a slightly undersized bus. After a quick refresh, repack and some breakfast at the WFH apartment in Georgetown we headed to the city airport for the flights to Baramita, an isolated village in the far West/Northwest corner of Guyana.

To get everyone and everything to the village, it took two trips from Georgetown with the Cessna 206 plus Laura took two loads from Mabaruma in the Cessna 182 bringing Karen, Jake, Zack and Jess (Peace Corps) along with food and other supplies.



Then there was an additional flight from Matthews Ridge with the local Medex and a community health worker. They wanted to be there so they could administer vaccines and see patients since so many people would be coming out to the clinic. The first group got right to work seeing patients while I went back for the rest of the team. The village provided the use of their council building for us to cook and stay in. Some set up tents on the floor, others set up outside under the building. Nothing fancy, but everyone seemed relatively comfortable although there was rousing debate around price point and

relative comfort of sleeping mats. (Surplus Herby's Discount Store scored the best!)

The clinic was set up in the school, which was a great location with good ventilation and plenty of space. Laila organized and recorded patient's names for Dentists Joel Mikelwait, Jonathan Visscher and Anthony Berdan, Dental Assistant Shannon Robinson and Hygienists Mandy Mortenson and our own Karen Wickwire. Brad Proud diligently monitored sterilization of the hundreds of instruments. Jacob and Zack assisted with preparing trays and Jess Yateau helped organize patients, prepare meals and carry dozens of pails of water for filtering in spite of suffering from a badly injured foot!

After everyone was settled in that first night, I fell asleep early in our tent thinking that I could catch up with organizing things the next morning, but that was not to be. At 12:30AM the Medex informed me she was treating a patient who had been slashed on the arm and a Med-evac was needed in the morning. This type of thing has happened here more times than I can count. Alcohol is the common denominator in virtually all cases.

In the misty early morning light I went looking for the patient and Medex to organize the trip. The patient had lost a lot of blood but was stable, so we went to work getting arrangements made for him to be transported and seen as soon as he reached the city. As we loaded up the patient and a community health worker, a policeman arrived with a man in handcuffs. It seems this was the alleged perpetrator. They wanted to be dropped off at Matthews Ridge, the next





Brad Proud
sterilizes
instruments.



Laila Mikelwait with new friends posing in front of AWA's Cessna 206 N59WA, the workhorse that made it possible to reach the villages.

closest police outpost. So away we flew with the whole assembly. It was only a short flight to Matthews Ridge where we left the policeman and his prisoner before heading on to Georgetown. Upon landing the patient was whisked away in a waiting ambulance. After a few stops to pick up and drop off patients and other passengers, I finally made my way back to Baramita late in the afternoon in time to whip up something to eat for the gang since Karen was fully occupied with dental work. Thankfully, hungry people are easier to please!


The local language is Carib so the team used local helpers for translation. They phonetically wrote out a few basic phrases related to patient care on a chalkboard for a language exercise. Mostly it came down to having them point to the tooth that was "paining" the most, identifying it for extraction.

Wednesday afternoon we flew the team to Mabaruma where they had a short breather. Thursday we were down at the river early to

launch the boat for a trip up the Aruka River about 30 miles to the village of Hotoquai. In the afternoon, we continued on about eight miles to a village named Hobodia. We had visited the villages the week before to let them know we were coming. The teachers had the students all organized by the time we arrived. Like a well oiled machine the team could set up their entire operation in just a few minutes so they were treating patients right away. There was little breeze so it was hot in the schools. The boat rides were a welcome respite from the heat, and with lots of eyes on the lookout, we spotted parrots, macaws, howler monkeys, toucans and even a caught a glimpse of a giant river otter.

On the final day, most of the team went back up the river to Sacred Heart School while Dr. Joel and Mandy stayed to work with the Dentex in her clinic. Working together, they extracted a total of 90 teeth in one day.

One of the most amazing things about this entire effort was that patients came in

at a steady rate. Just when it seemed like it was slowing down, another group would come in, but the teams never left a village while there were still patients waiting for treatment. When the records were tallied, 406 patients had been seen and 722 teeth had been extracted; relieving the pain of many. Thank you for helping us make such an impact in so many people's lives! 

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.	



Karen Wickwire
works on a
patient.



Jake and Zack
help organize
trays.

by Fran Hansen

ALASKA Building Community

OUR LIFE IN GAMBELL IS PICKING UP. MIKE has been working on the sound system in the church and takes turns with the elders and pastor presenting sermons. We have an 'after school play time' that draws an ever changing number of children. We have had as few as 10 and as many as 20. It will continue to grow as more children learn that we're open after school and all are invited. They are a joy to be with. If you have any good unused toys or table games, we can sure use them here!

We are partnering with the school in a couple ways. Mike plans to help in the shop class and I am going to make candles after school with the high school children. We are also planning a pinewood derby race in the gym and intend to start having a movie night on Saturday nights. We are looking for family oriented material either on DVD or VHS to share. If you have any and would like to donate them, please send them to: PO Box 10, Gambell, AK 99742.

Another big project we have been gearing up for is a Christmas gift program. We plan

to schedule one day where the parents will come and pick out a gift for their child. The next day, the children can come and pick out a gift for their parents. The stores here don't stock gifts, they just carry necessities.

The lay pastor of the Presbyterian church asked us to join in the Christmas program this year. We have purchased a Christmas tree which will be put in the middle of town so people can carol around it before it is moved to the gym for the Christmas program there. Before the village spread out, people used to carol from house to house and some miss doing that. We hope this will help revive some of that fun time together as a village.

Each Friday at 1:30PM the school has a half-hour dance for the children to learn their native ways. They also learn to speak Yupik and other native skills. We have gone to watch and will continue to do so. The dances are so graceful.

As we continue to find small ways to be involved in the community, we are blessed and really enjoy the warmth with which we

have been welcomed. Mike has initiated a local coalition which has already had its first meeting. The participants are enthusiastic about working together. All the main entities in the village are involved which shows much promise.

One of the great benefits of life on this island is that we get the chance to go out on the beach and see all the whales. Last week after a high surf we went along the beach looking at all the different plants that had been washed up on shore. What a variety. And then we saw a gray whale not 20 feet from the shore. He was so close we could see his body swimming in the water! The drop off is quite dramatic, not gradual like most beaches, so the whales come in close to feed. What a blessing!

Please continue to pray for the small villages in Alaska. Along with the people living here we face some daunting challenges, but God is good and will continue to lead and bless.

Editor's Note: Mike and Fran Hansen functioned as AWA volunteer coordinators for nearly a decade helping re-open ministry in several Alaska villages through the Summer VBS program. Having fallen in love with the Yupik people, they have moved to St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea to strengthen the church and grow God's Kingdom. Your participation in this project is vital to win back ground lost over the years of isolation. (For greater context see article featured on back cover.)



Children learn native dances.

AWA KODIAK AIRPLANE #1 GOAL \$1,200,000			
NCCF Matching Grant	AWA Donors	+ \$375,000 Due on Delivery	
\$1,110,917 Raised		\$89,083 Still Needed	
16.5%	33%	50%	67%
			83.5%

Building the Kingdom Continued from page 2

were restored healthy and whole. The bodies of those who didn't make it were returned to the village - the first time in memory that anyone cared enough to honor the dead and their grieving families with such kindness. The Christian service was not without effect.

Trudi and I followed the Tachau through the light rain to a guest building where we waited for Jud to return. He pointed out the plot of land that the village council had voted to give *AWA/WFH* - a place to park the airplane and space on which to construct our own guest facility from which to minister to their village! As far as we can determine, there has never been a Christian presence in the village and now they are requesting it from *AWA/WFH*!

Relief for the Suffering: Back at the airplane a man with his wife and two children approached explaining that his wife had a miscarriage a couple of days earlier, and "she still had stuff hanging down." She was beginning to run a fever and he wondered if we could take them to the hospital in Mabaruma. We helped them into the airplane and after departure Jud notified the hospital in the air. A vehicle and driver were waiting for us when we landed at Mabaruma. The last we heard, the remaining afterbirth had been successfully removed and the woman was doing much better.

Earning the Right to Share: The same evening the Regional government threw a Christmas hospitality dinner to thank volunteers working in partnership with the government. *AWA/WFH*, Peace Corps, and Volunteer Service Organization personnel enjoyed food, fellowship and speeches. The regional Chairman and the Executive Officer made it clear that they and their people had benefited significantly from our presence and we

were asked to give a devotional thought to open the gathering.

Brother Bourne approached me. Grasping my hand, he thanked me over and over for the presence of our team in Mabaruma. With tears in his eyes he shared what a blessing *AWA/WFH*, had been to his family.

Caring for the Wounded and Bleeding: Jud, Trudi and I were eating breakfast in Georgetown when Jud's phone rang. It was a Med-evac call. Jud and I hurriedly finished and left for the airport. An attendant from the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs met us to escort the female stabbing victim who was reportedly coughing up blood. Upon arrival at Matthew's Ridge another male patient (vomiting blood) joined the emergency evacuation flight to Georgetown. Both were transported to the hospital for further care.

Gratitude from Government and Conference: We met with officials from the Ministries of Health and Amerindian Affairs. At both ministries, gratitude for our team was repeatedly expressed and suggestions for expanding the work were entertained. The message was the same at the Guyana Conference where an annual Workers Meeting was in progress.

Retrieving the Dead: We loaded supplies and personal gear into the Cessna 206. An aged mother and adult son met us at the airplane in Georgetown. Their husband and father had just died and we were asked to transport the body back to Mabaruma. There wasn't space for the son to accompany us so it was a sad and lonely trip for his mother. As the body was taken from the airplane in Mabaruma and carefully placed in the back of a large Bedford truck, one of the family members paused during the process, and to you as well as to us, uttered a heart-felt, "*God Bless You!*" *AWA*



The Woman (in white) and her relatives wait for the body of her husband to be transferred to the truck.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR
DR & MRS J. L. DEWITT	LYNDON & MARTHA DEWITT	JOHN M. LASWELL	FRANCES M. SHAVER	GRACE L. RUTT	FRANK & CAROL FARKASH	GRACE L. RUTT	FRANK & CAROL FARKASH
MANUEL SOLIS PEREZ	FRANCISCA S PEREZ	JOHN & LISA LUNGU	HELEN M. LUNGU	CAROLE SMOCK	REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME	CAROLE SMOCK	REGINOLD & JEANETTE EIGHME
DAVID ANDERSON	ETHEL L. ANDERSON	MARCIA LOPEZ	ANDREW & KAMALA JALEY	JIM STARLIN	KENNETH & JUNE STOVER	JIM STARLIN	KENNETH & JUNE STOVER
HARRY B BOLES	CLARA A. BOLES	PHOEBE A. MARTIN	LOUIS & BARBARA MARTIN	JIM & LARRY STARLIN	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ	JIM & LARRY STARLIN	HARRY & JOANNA SCHULTZ
VICTOR BRANDT	DAVID & SONJA DE ROSE	GRAHAM MAXWELL	ELLSWORTH WAREHAM	JOSEPH STERN	LLOYD & ARDIS BECKNER	JOSEPH STERN	LLOYD & ARDIS BECKNER
RILEY & LUCY CAESAR	LAEL & LENA CAESAR	GRAHAM MAXWELL	BARBARA WAREHAM	JOHN & ALTA SZASZ	DEBORAH J. SZASZ	JOHN & ALTA SZASZ	DEBORAH J. SZASZ
GLADYS M. CARRIER	DONALD D. CARRIER	WILMA MAYOR	RAYMOND L. MAYOR	JENNIE VOORHEES	LEE & MARYN SHEIVE	JENNIE VOORHEES	LEE & MARYN SHEIVE
RUTH L. CHASE	ROBERT C. CHASE	ROBERT MENZER	ROGER W. MENZER	STEVE VORIES	BARBARA L. VORIES	STEVE VORIES	BARBARA L. VORIES
RALPH CURTIS	MITCHELL WARNER	CHRIS MILLER	RICHARD & SHARON ORRISON	DURWARD WILDMAN	CHARLES & JANET SCHLUNT	DURWARD WILDMAN	CHARLES & JANET SCHLUNT
JOYCE ELLIS	LYLE & JOYCE ELLIS	E. H. MOLDRIK	EMIL & RUTH MOLDRIK	KIRSTEN WOLCOTT	ANNE BERIT PETERSEN	KIRSTEN WOLCOTT	ANNE BERIT PETERSEN
MR & MRS ORNAN FOLLETT	RONALD & SHARON FOLLETT	JUDY & JANIS MORRIS	RICHARD & JEANETTE MORRIS	JIM & LARRY STARLIN	CHARLENE STARLIN	JIM & LARRY STARLIN	CHARLENE STARLIN
JOHN HANCOCK	SAMUEL & ELDA ELLER	JOHN MUTCHLER	JHAN & STEPHANIE MUTCHLER	IN HONOR OF	DONOR	IN HONOR OF	DONOR
DOROTHY HEIDTKE	BILL & RUTH CHOBOTAR	SEBASTIANA OSORIO	FRANCIS & NONA THAM	ALL MISSIONARIES	ANTHONY & MARGARITA BONILLA	ALL MISSIONARIES	ANTHONY & MARGARITA BONILLA
GEORGE & KATIE HERBER	LEO & CLAUDINE HERBER	EMERALD OXLEY	RON & VIVIEN OXLEY	ELIZABETH GUSTAFSON	HANNAH GUSTAFSON	ELIZABETH GUSTAFSON	HANNAH GUSTAFSON
DONALD S. HUNT	STEPHEN & CATHERINE KOVAL	MARY ROBBINS	FRANK & SUSAN COHEN	DON & TRUDI STARLIN	PATRICIA A. RANDALL	DON & TRUDI STARLIN	PATRICIA A. RANDALL
BILL KUEZINGER	HILDEGARD KUEZINGER	KALEB ROBERTS	DWIGHT & ELLOWYN ST. CLAIR				



Delian Island.

by Ed Brennan

AFTER MONTHS OF DISCUSSION, PLANNING, and arranging, the day came to depart for a district fellowship on the island of Delian. This fellowship consisted of seven churches from other islands in the area. Delian is in a group of islands known as the Calamianes off the northern tip of Palawan. This is home to several villages of fishermen plying their trade in the Sulu Sea. Getting there can be a bit of a challenge, but once you are there, it is an amazing place surrounded by clear water, sandy beaches, and beautiful coral.

We departed from Puerto Princesa flying in one of the local airlines' turbo prop airplanes. Our trip schedule had us leaving early on Tuesday morning and returning the following Sunday. It is a short flight north of about forty minutes to the municipality of Coron. From there we took a shuttle van to the docks. Coron is fast becoming a nice little tourist town with rising hotels and scuba diving shops. We passed all this by so that we could get straight to the docks as

we had more traveling to do and wanted to arrive on the island before sundown. From the van we boarded a 'banka' or 'pump boat', for the last leg of our trip. This was actually the most beautiful part of the journey as we passed through bays enclosed with mountainous terrain on our way to the isolated little island of Delian.

We arrived at our destination before dark and were given lodging in a room behind the local church. This church was hosting the District Fellowship celebration and they took their hosting duties seriously. The room had only recently been constructed and was obviously of better quality than the local housing which consisted mostly of 'bahay kubo'. (Houses constructed of mostly bamboo and banana leaf materials.) The church members made sure that the guest speakers and lecturers were well cared for. We were truly given the royal treatment and were most grateful for their wonderful hospitality.



Morning meetings

The guest speakers included Pastor Darwin Faigao and his wife Cynthia, Pastor Romeo Mangiliman, my wife Marilyn and me. Having been given the opportunity to speak for one of the morning devotions, it came as a bit of a surprise when they told me that I would be speaking at five thirty the next morning. Understanding

that these fishermen must get an early start in order to practice their livelihood, I joked with them that maybe they needed to get up so early so they could hook the fish when they were yawning. Even though they failed to 'catch' my joke, they did seem to appreciate the devotion before they went off to their days work.





Pastor Faigao with the teen class.



The adult meetings in the church.

Pastor Faigao and I got to spend most of the rest of the week working with the teenage youth while Marilyn was given the responsibility of teaching the younger children. The teenagers here seem to have the same issues that teenagers everywhere have; education, relationships, and how they fit into the church. We tried to cover these issues as openly as possible and answer all of their questions the best we could. Pastor Faigao seemed to relate well with the youth and I was impressed with how freely they opened up to him with their concerns.

While Marilyn spent time teaching the normal vacation bible school type activities, she decided to take advantage of our

When we had some free time, we set out to explore the village and noticed several things. Being such a remote island, there was no electricity unless a portable generator was used. Running water and sewage systems were nonexistent. The only restroom or toilet facilities seemed to be the one that was built for the church. There may have been more, but we did not see outside comfort rooms or outhouses that are normal in such villages. This led to many discussions about the opportunity for a greater ministry presence in the area. We learned that there are several islands nearby with similar needs. This is an area that could use a strong public health outreach ministry to help deter the spread of communicable diseases and to implement childhood disease prevention measures. While there are missionaries such as pastors and others reaching out to these locations, much more can be done. Each opening for service is an opportunity that

could yield a great harvest for Christ.

Once AWA's airplane is back in operation, reaching these islands could be made easier than it currently is. We learned of a runway in use on one of the neighboring islands that would put the other islands within easy reach. This was told to us by one of the sisters from Coron who happens to be a Department of Social Welfare and Development officer for this part of Palawan. We are hoping to partner with her department in the future to facilitate much needed work in this part of Palawan. God's hand is seen in bringing us into contact with those who can play a pivotal role in helping us reach out to these people in need.

After a full week of activities that included choir and preaching demonstrations from the youth, the festivities concluded. While we were grateful for the fellowship and worship in which we were greatly blessed, it was time to head back. The Sabbath was truly wonderful and concluded with a child dedication service and a prayer service for the fishermen's boats and other vehicles. Since the airline departure times were on Sunday morning we decided to take a sun-down cruise back to Coron on a small banka

provided by one of the brethren. While the sea was a bit rough, we made it back to the city safe and sound and were able to sleep in a gracious church member's home that evening. Well rested, we caught the morning flight back to Puerto Princesa where we could begin preparations for the next event. *AWA*



Children singing.

time on the island to teach some basic hygiene practices—simple things really, such as hand washing. Mrs. Faigao also took this time to present preventive health lectures and nutrition to the women in attendance. Both women seemed to have enthusiastic audiences as such measures are very much needed on these small islands.

Children learn basic hygiene practices.



Jonathan and Chris stand by the window overlooking the floor of Hangar 7 at Allentown airport.



by Eric Engen

AWA-PA

Networking the Kingdom

sessions. So we instantly had much in common!

Through that contact, Jeff learned of our training program at AWA-PA. He has been looking out for us ever since. Back in October, he called me and asked me what day would be best for our students to attend a *Careers in Aviation* day. I looked

at the Academy schedule, and gave him a Sunday which had the fewest conflicts. He proceeded to tell me that he would schedule the CAP career day specifically so that our AWA-PA students could attend!

Allentown is a Class C airport, which means that its control tower is in charge of a large region of airspace. The CAP cadets and their guests were able to visit the tower cab and radar rooms of the control tower, visit the airport police and fire fighters and ride down the taxiways and runways in an airport fire engine, visit with Med-evac helicopter pilots, talk to airline and air cargo pilots, military pilots, TSA agents, and corporate flight pilots. They also let us sit in a FRASCA simulator, and in a Redbird (motion-based) simulator that is used by the local community college there at the FBO.

It was a terrific day! Not only did our students get to go behind the scenes and witness many aspects of aviation that we aren't normally able to show them--we also made some fabulous contacts with the local flying community. Many good things could come from these contacts. Stay tuned . . .

AWA

DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER, the AWA-PA ground school class paid a visit to the Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown, PA. We were invited to participate with the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) *Careers in Aviation* day.

Our contact with CAP was Jeffery Buchman, a captain for a major airline. He generally flies international routes out of New York City, but he has a passion for helping young people become involved in aviation and leadership opportunities, so he is heavily involved with the CAP.

I first met Jeff a couple of years ago when he was glider instructor at Kutztown airport, just a few miles away from Blue Mountain Academy. As we were talking, he learned of my affiliation with the Adventist church. He said, "My sister-in-law is a Seventh-day Adventist, and she was involved with some kind of camp in Ohio." I thought he might be referring to campmeeting. We talked some more, and I learned that she was also connected with a radio drama with studios based in Ohio. At last, we realized that we were talking about Your Story Hour, an inter-faith radio ministry. His sister-in-law is the 'Linda' who was on almost every episode of Your Story Hour program (This is Linda, Annabelle, Ferrell, Aunt Sue, and Uncle Dan, saying "Good-bye everyone. See you again next week!"). My dad was the chairman of the Your Story Hour board for a number of years, and I was involved in a couple of episode recording



Eric Engen, Maj. Thorn from CAP, AWA-PA students Kelsey, Chris and Jonathan, Captain Jeffery Buchman.

AWA.TN

God's Glory. . . A Greater Purpose!

by Sam Miller

RECENTLY, I WAS AT THE AIRPORT WITH A student and we watched a Falcon 20 swoop in to pick up freight. I began sharing stories of my past career, reminiscing about "the good old days". My student asked me, "Do you ever miss flying the jets?"

Six years ago I had a trip to Gunnison, Colorado, a small town at the foot of Crested Butte Ski Resort. We arrived on a Friday morning for a planned stay of three days. After checking into the hotel, I consulted the yellow pages for an SDA church. I had just started to attend SDA churches a couple months earlier. I found one a mile and a half from the hotel. Sabbath morning I walked under a cloudless sky and -15 degrees Fahrenheit temperature. It was one of the most beautiful Sabbath mornings I had ever seen.

When I arrived for Sabbath School, there were two families present; about eight people in all if I recall correctly. Another four or five showed up for church, where a carpenter got up and gave a wonderful sermon. He was the lay pastor for this small flock. After church I was invited back to the pastor's home along with the entire congregation save one family who had plans for outreach in town. The procession was made up of two trucks and an SUV.

We sat in a circle in the warm rustic home sharing stories from our pasts when Edwin told his story. It was a story that, at the time, I didn't realize I'd reflect on in the future. He told how living in the Rockies fed his passion for skiing. When he and his wife moved back to Gunnison, they found the church in need of leadership to get it going again. He felt God was calling him,

a carpenter, to give his time on the weekends to serve in a larger capacity, but this conflicted with his time set aside for skiing. He shared how he wrestled with the idea of giving up his season pass to dedicate more time to the Lord.

After much prayer, he told the Lord he'd give his skiing to Him and serve the community in anyway the Lord asked.

A few months later Edwin received a phone call.

"When you give something you love to the Lord, He will return it in a purer, more refined form that will bring glory to Him."

The man was looking for the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist church. You see, the man was the manager of a ski resort and needed someone to preach Sunday mornings for the staff and guests. He had found most of the local pastors busy on Sunday mornings, but thought maybe the Adventist pastor would be available since he had his regular services on Saturdays. The resort didn't have money set aside to pay for this, but they could offer Edwin a season pass for his services.

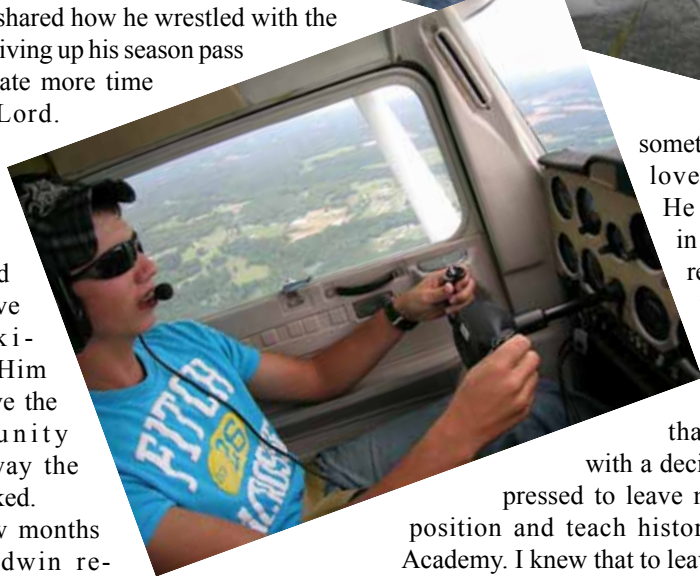
Edwin then said something that has remained with me ever since. "When you give

something you love to the Lord, He will return it in a purer, more refined form that will bring glory to Him."

It was two years later that I was faced with a decision. I felt impressed to leave my Chief Pilot position and teach history at Heritage Academy. I knew that to leave would mean departing aviation, most likely for good. The Lord continued to impress, open doors and close others, until it seemed as though the decision was easy. My wife and I packed our home and family, moved to Heritage, and a year later I was making preparations to start flying again. But this time, it was for His glory.

I told my student, "Yes, I miss flying the jets, but I don't miss the job. The job didn't have a greater purpose." I explained how some jobs can be fun and exciting, but unless you're making a difference in people's lives, the excitement can fade quickly. Jobs like that can consume all your time, leaving nothing to do real work with. Then I explained how my new aviation career has nothing but a greater purpose.

We continue to make vast improvements to our program here at Heritage Academy. We can use your continued prayer and support as we continue to grow here on the plateau. We are in the process of building a 2,500' runway and hangar, purchasing and installing a weather station, adding a second airplane to our "fleet", purchasing a base radio for communication purposes, and adding a flight simulator to our school: all, we pray, to our Lord's Glory and the equipping of His children for work in His harvest field.



Making His Deeds Known!



by Steve Syvertson

Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! 1 Chronicles 16:8,9 NKJV.

As I sit here just after the Thanksgiving holiday, this passage reminds me that we should be giving thanks not only at Thanksgiving, but at all times. Our program is new and still being developed but I would like to share some of the things we have to be thankful for this year.


- Our current students are halfway through the ground school and are progressing well. Jonathan Gregory has almost 30 hours of flight time towards his private pilot license and we hope to have his license completed by the end of the school year.
- Hangars are at a premium so it is difficult to find an open one in our area, yet God led us to one and we now have a place to protect our airplane.
- We have a 'new' airplane available for the students to use that is very fuel efficient, allowing the rates for use of the plane to be set at \$35-\$40 less than the market rate in our area.

- We have received the funds to pay off approximately 39% of what is owed on the aircraft which leaves us a remaining balance of only about \$35,000.
- We thank God for a safe flight from Wisconsin to California for the delivery of our aircraft and for a board that believes in our youth, and the mission of educating them in aviation.
- We praise God and wish to thank all those who support this program, whether it is through funding or through prayer.

On Thanksgiving I went flying with Pastor Luke Fessenden who learned to fly while a boys dean at Monterey Bay Academy. He shared the story of a student that learned to fly at an academy he was attending, and how this student went on to become a mission pilot! I enjoyed hearing the story because it is an example of the fulfillment of the goals of AWA-CA to equip our youth to "Fly on

God's Mission". We are training them in the skills needed to become a mission pilot, but more importantly, we are equipping them to "make known his deeds among the people". 1 Chronicles 16:8-9.

In the next **Flight Log** we will share the plans for the summer mission program where the students will gain valuable exposure to Flying & Mission work. We feel it is important to provide this experience now, while the interest is still high and not wait for some undetermined time in the future, after their interest in missions has waned.


Please pray for the success and safety of our mission aviation program. We also ask that you please consider how you can help support our mission program whether financially, through prayer, or volunteering. I can be reached at Steve@awa-ca.org or call 831-435-1212. We can also be found on Facebook under AWA-CA or you can access our website at www.AWA-CA.org. 



GYC 2010: While much of the world celebrated New Year's weekend partying, over 5,000 young people associated with a Generation of Youth for Christ rented the Baltimore Convention Center and filled downtown Baltimore, Maryland hotels to be refreshed spiritually and share with others what God has done in their lives. What more fertile ground could there be for recruiting missionaries? AWA was there!

Quest Aircraft Company: On November 19, 2010 after 16,000 miles and 12 days of ferry flying, KODIAK s/n 0038 touched down at Aiyura airport in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea where JAARS-trained pilots are based. This came roughly one year, and 30 Quest deliveries, after its sibling s/n 0008 arrived last September.

Aiyura airport, at an elevation of 5,100 feet with a runway length of 4,200 feet, is the main air base for Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) an organization dedicated to turning spoken language into written word. Pilots and mechanics who work out of Aiyura airport live in the nearby SIL town of Ukarumpa and work with JAARS in support of SIL/Wycliffe Bible translators working on hundreds of Bible translation projects. For more on Kodiaks serving in missions visit questaircraft.com, www.jaars.org or www.ottavianotes.blogspot.com.

With Avgas becoming more difficult and costly to obtain, the Kodiak's ability to lift three times the load on more abundant cheaper jet fuel is driving AWA's Kodiak campaign. 

God's Kingdom Re-claimed! Continued from back page

Selawik has its ups and downs like any Alaskan village, and the tightly knit community hasn't been without its own tragedies. Downs said there were two suicides and an alcohol poisoning within a six-week period. Ministering there has been a struggle; church attendance is low, public and door-to-door evangelism isn't successful and kid's programs were canceled because of rowdy behavior. Still, Downs makes his presence known and people know he and his family are available. He helps with the village food bank and kids will often knock on his door for a family visit.

Church is "low key," Downs said, with attendees wearing casual clothes and many preferring country gospel music. Church attendance was strong his first few weeks in town. "It was maybe 15, but after the novelty of our arrival wore off, attendance is down to about four, sometimes five," he said. Downs said the future success of the congregation will hinge on locals taking ownership, not just on people like him cycling through. It's been tough to develop leaders, he said.

The Adventist Church's Arctic village outreach began in the 1930s but fizzled

following the restructuring several decades ago. The church had previously classified the state as mission territory, but in 1982 the region was reorganized as a conference—a region of congregations that is self-supporting, both financially and leadership-wise. Crawford, the current conference president, said funding for the Arctic outreach froze soon after the reorganization with the small churches mostly empty ever since. He said the conference is now in the process of re-classifying the Arctic as a mission territory again.


When assessing interested volunteers who contact his office, Crawford says he prefers married couples—the native population is very family oriented, he says. Last month, recently married Anthony and Airen Sherman left their

**. . . the conference
is now in the process
of re-classifying
the Arctic as a mission
territory again.**

home in Delta Junction in central Alaska to re-open the church and its accompanying parsonage in Shungnak. The building needs repairs and neighbors are helping by providing insulation so they can stay through the winter. Anthony Sherman, 24, is still working on certification to become a substance abuse counselor. He left the church in his teens but rejoined after helping with a weeklong children's mission program in Shungnak three years ago. "That impacted me a lot," he said. Three years later he has returned, this time to work full-time. "There are a lot of villages where we don't have people willing to go," Sherman said. "Someone needs to be doing this." There are still over 200 villages that need to hear the Gospel of Christ before He returns to take us home. Is God calling you to be one of those to reach out to our brothers and sisters in this vast Arctic region?

—For more information, visit the Alaska Conference website at alaskaconference.org
22 Oct 2010, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Ansel Oliver/ANN

Used by permission. 



by Jim Kincaid

ALASKA

God's Kingdom Re-claimed!

SEVERAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST churches in the Arctic region of Alaska are again staffed following years, even decades, of abandonment. The Adventist Church in Shungnak, Alaska sat empty for at least two decades. Last month, two volunteers moved to Shungnak to restart Adventist ministry in the village. Seven of the denomination's Arctic region churches are functioning again. Funds dwindled in the 1980s, halting the flow of ministerial volunteers to these remote villages.

In recent years these churches have been re-staffed one by one. The last of those villages abandoned by the church was re-entered when a husband-wife volunteer team drove from their home in central Alaska to the village of Shungnak to re-establish Adventist outreach there.

Though church leaders are pleased to resume work in these areas, there are still more than 220 villages in the Alaskan Arctic region without Adventist ministry. Most are geographically isolated towns with populations ranging from 200 to 1,000 people. "This is a very neglected area of North America that not many people know about, but it's a mission field right here," said Ken Crawford, president of the church's Anchorage-based Alaska Conference. Crawford himself served as a minister in Alaska's Arctic region in the 1970s.



Photo courtesy Alaska Conference



The Arctic Circle is a line around the globe with latitude of about 66 degrees north. Its location in the upper Northern Hemisphere means there is little light in the winter, which health experts say contributes to the state's high percentage of its citizens turning to alcohol, drugs or even suicide to deal with the darkness and isolation. It's also very cold there. "In the winter if it gets up to zero degrees [Fahrenheit] we're pretty warm and toasty," said Wendell Downs, a lay Adventist pastor in Selawik, a village of about 850 people just north of the Arctic

Circle. Downs, a 39-year-old computer programmer, moved his family in 2006 from the state's major metropolitan area of Anchorage to minister in Selawik. They live in the parsonage connected to the 20-by 20-foot church, which sat empty for more than 20 years.

(Continued on page 15)

ALASKA PROJECT				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
			\$52,193 Still Needed	
Dillingham Hangar and Land \$100,000				

FLIGHT LOG ➔

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