

FLIGHT LOG →

SUMMER 2011

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 3

FOR THE FRIENDS OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

VOLUNTEERS

Investing in God's Mission



by Nesco M. Lettsome, Jr.

IN MAY OF 2011, AFTER MONTHS OF COLLECTING coins, and dollar bills was over, the final count brought the total collected to over \$1,200 dollars. The Beltsville Buckaroos Adventurers Club from Beltsville, Maryland was \$200 over their goal. What an exciting moment! For the second year in a row, this group of 80 children was able to exceed their charity fund raising goal. This time the club's chosen charity would be Adventist World Aviation (AWA). For three years, the club leader, Mrs. Jeveline Lettsome, reserved one 30 minute worship period to share how Adventist World Aviation helps to positively impact the world for Jesus, by supporting Adventist Frontier Missions,

partnering with local governments to provide needed medical services and medical airlifts in areas where cars cannot go, and touching the hearts of local villagers by having dedicated missionaries living among them lending a hand when needed, asking nothing in return. AWA helps "The Least of These." Now this year the funds raised were earmarked for God's Mission through AWA.

In 2010, the charity was "The India Project to The Least of These", which helped an orphan children's home/school, and a home for people with leprosy. The club raised over \$850, which enabled the children to each have 2 school uniforms. The club members were given incite into how much

the uniforms meant to children that have so little—photos were shown from a previous visit. It gives the orphans a feeling of belonging and brighter smiles.

The children were anxious to get started, and right from the start coins started coming in from the biggest Helping Hand aged nine to the smallest Little Lamb aged 4 years. The song, "Hear the pennies dropping, listen while they fall" comes to mind. The Adventurers Club is a family club where both parent and child participate, and that is just what happens during fund raisers. There were parents and their children selling pizza, cookies, and drinks to hungry Pathfinders, and their counselors after meetings. Families

(Continued on page 8)





Mike Porter,
Interim
President

Looking Ahead



IN THE LAST ISSUE OF *FLIGHT LOG*, OUR LONG-time president, Don Starlin shared his plans to return to the family electrical business, taking a break from AWA. I am certain you join me in sharing our gratitude for Don's many years serving with AWA. We wish him the very best in this next stage in his life and trust he'll be back involved with AWA in the not-too-distant future, perhaps helping with flying and maintenance support.

For some time, the Board of Directors of Adventist World Aviation has been in search of a new president to lead this ministry to its next level of accomplishment. I am very pleased to announce that Pastor Ric Swaningson has accepted the Board's call to serve as the next President of AWA. He begins his duties on July 1.

Ric is a pastor, evangelist, businessman and pilot, a great combination for AWA, a ministry all about Building the Kingdom! Ric and his wife, Dawn, have raised three daughters, all of whom are in the medical field. Ric is presently serving as a pastor evangelist in Texas. To date, he has led evangelistic meetings in 15 different countries and more than 60 cities inside the U.S. He has partnered with Quiet Hour ministries in international evangelism in the past.


Ric is an instrument-rated private pilot currently working on obtaining his commercial license. He owns and flies a 1965



Mooney M20C which he uses as a personal outreach tool to bring both young and old alike to Christ.

As an AWA board member and CEO for Quiet Hour Ministries, I look forward to many more years of our ongoing partnership in sharing saving grace to build the kingdom of God. It has been a pleasure serving this brief time as AWA's interim president and I welcome Ric to step into his new role as AWA's permanent president. Welcome Pastor Ric!

This issue of *Flight Log* is filled with inspirational updates on what is happening in the world of AWA! I know you'll share my excitement in reading what God is allowing us to do in helping build His Kingdom.

Thanks to your faithfulness, many wonderful things are happening! 

Cover: Families selling ethnic food at the Annual International Day fund raiser held at the Beltsville SDA Church.

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.

PHILIPPINES

by Fletcher Grahm

Sharing God's Vision!

I'M NOT SURE HOW MANY HOURS AND HOW many miles I have spent on the road, going to and from places where I have shared the vision of AWA's mission. At the time you are reading this article, I know that I will have spoken at least 72 times at 43 churches and one camp meeting so far. When you add to this over twenty separate in-home visits, the countless times I have shared with families who have provided lodging for me on the road, two EAA AirVentures and one Pathfinder International Camporee, the total number of times that I have been able to share the wonderful work God is doing through this mission is probably well over 100. The number of people who have heard the stories of how God has used AWA to reach out to the lost peoples of Earth reaches into the thousands.

During this time, some have questioned AWA's methods. Some have told us how we should change how we operate. Others smile, shake your hand, thank you for such an interesting presentation and then walk out the door. A few sign up to learn more about the mission, ask questions, and/or tell their own stories of serving God in foreign fields or at home. And every once in a while, you get to meet a person or family who were set on fire by the Holy Spirit after hearing our message and can't wait to get involved. How few, though, are those who ask the really important questions, the questions that lead to making a difference in peoples lives, questions like: "What can I do to help?" "How can I be a part of this work?" "How can I help reach the people God created your mission to serve?"

Satan likes to discourage us in any way he can. He wants to peel our eyes away from the prize of the high calling in Jesus. He wants to distract us from our purpose, our labors for lost souls, and ultimately, to sever us from our Salvation. Sadly, he is far too successful, far too often.

Simply stated, the purpose of Adventist World Aviation is to build God's kingdom. Our mission is neither limited by time or location. Our mission field is both at home and abroad. There are souls in danger within our own churches every bit as much as in the

remotest spirit worshipping jungle village across some vast ocean. It is to these precious souls, here at home, that are every bit as much a part of our mission as those in the foreign fields where we

There are souls in need within our own churches every bit as much as in the remotest spirit worshipping jungle village across some vast ocean.

serve. To heaven, a soul in need is a soul in need, no matter what their address.

The changes in culture over the past century alone have had catastrophic consequences in God's church. Today is the day of 'Evangelistic Series', 'Television Outreach' and I-Pod streaming ministries. Along with the benefits of the airplane have come disastrous fragmentations of society. We have become strangers, even to those who live ten feet from us, and many times to even our own families. We have lost, to a great extent, the spirit of missions! And by missions, I don't mean just foreign missions, I mean the very purpose of the church and our role in it. We have left far too much to the pastor, the conference evangelist and 3ABN. We have turned our homes into fortresses against the world and have barred the doors out of fear of contamination. Brothers and sisters, we will NEVER complete the Great Commission this way. It will take nothing

NOT EVERYONE IS CALLED TO GO, BUT NONE ARE EXCUSED FROM PARTICIPATING.

short of every single child of God linking hand in hand to finish this work, both at home and abroad. It is to this end that those who serve with Adventist World Aviation spend so much time here in the United States, sharing the vision of not just our small part of missions but God's entire mission. It is to encourage and inspire every child of God to take their stand at Christ's side in the work of spreading the Gospel to the furthest corners of Earth. Not everyone is called to go, but none are excused from participating. No single mission will complete this work on their own. It will take all of us to finish this work. And only then will the end of this miserable world come. God would not that any should perish, not even those snuggled up warm and cozy in His own church. AWA



GUYANA

Evacuating the Sick and Injured

by Bill and Laura LaBore

THE CALL FOR THE MEDEVAC CAME AT 4:00 pm, too late to be handled that day. Single-engine aircraft are not allowed to fly at night, and all the twin-engine local carriers are refusing to fly at night after a pilot had a close call with a tree. The dispatcher said the emergency was caused by an ATV accident involving two children. All we could do was pray for the children and wait until first daylight to retrieve them and fly to Georgetown. They were located at a village 30 minutes away from where we live.

When Laura was landing the next morning, the beat-up hospital pickup truck, with the patients riding in back, came barreling up alongside the airstrip. Big plumes of dust kicked up in all directions. The airstrip taxiway converges with the main road but, as you might expect, Laura got the "right of way."

After everyone came to a stop, the medical worker jumped out of the back of the truck, and the father gently handed her the most critical patient, his son Brandon. Laura's heart broke as she quickly took a look at him. He was six years old, his face badly bruised from the accident and fresh blood coming out of both ears. The four-year-old had his arm wrapped in gauze and cardboard for the

break. The father had some bad abrasions on the side of his face. Laura quickly loaded all of them, including the mother and their young daughter, into the Cessna 206 aircraft and quickly took off for Georgetown.

On the way, the father motioned that the IV wasn't infusing into Brandon. Laura was able to lean back a bit and fiddle with it until she got it going. The mom periodically leaned forward and rested her hand on his chest to make sure he was still breathing. A while later, Laura again got some frantic motioning from behind and she looked back to see Brandon vomiting up large amounts of "coffee grounds" (old blood). She quickly rummaged through her flight bag that was right beside her and found a bag of goodies that one of our volunteers, Len Sherwood, had left her after his recent stay. She dumped out all the contents of the bag and quickly handed it to the father who helped his ailing son.

After landing in Georgetown, they only had to wait about 5 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. While waiting, the father looked at Laura with desperation in his eyes and asked, "Is he going to make it?" Using her nursing background, she was able to tell him the truth about the severity of his son's condition but



said she didn't know how it would turn out. She then told him that she'd been praying for them since the night before and throughout the whole flight and would continue to do so. (He comes from a village that has in the past been opposed to any new religion.)

As of the time of this article, both boys are still in the public hospital in Georgetown. Brandon is making a slow recovery. You can lift him up in prayer that the Lord will spare his life and that, perhaps, through this experience, his family may come to know Jesus. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him.

AWA



The mother holds 4 year-old Raphael



The father holds Brandon during the flight.

GUYANA

Laying the Foundation

by Greg VanFossen

ABORT! THERE'S A TRUCK COMING OUT ON the runway!" I saw no such vehicle, but I "humored" the instructor pilot and quickly pulled the power off and stood on the brakes to just under skidding pressure. I have (tongue in cheek) informed my flight instructor's superiors at Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) that he seems to hallucinate frequently. This type of thing is done over and over, without prior warning, at various times in different operations.

In the course of my training from the private **pilot** through **flight instructor ratings**, emergency procedures have been repeatedly emphasized. In March I was able to start a flight-training program at MAF in Idaho. The specific goal was to gain coached experience of flight in technically demanding areas—primarily in rugged terrain and short airstrips. This training dwells on emergency procedures with checklists at every phase of flight, from preflight through after parking the aircraft. All of this, with safety the primary goal, is to make sure nothing is left undone that should be done.

There are a couple of checklists that need to be maintained in the mind so one can go through them when it is not practical to try to read one on a card. One such checklist is part of the pre-takeoff checklist and an in-flight emergency checklist. In this course it is called 6-G's: Glide-Grass-Gas-Gab-Guts-Get Out. These items need to be engraved in my mind in case I have a power failure shortly after takeoff or when flying over rugged terrain where reaction time is critical.

Just before takeoff, to check off the abort part of the pre-takeoff checklist, I must say to the other pilot (or to myself if I'm the only pilot), "My abort point is _____. I will abort if my power check is not complete or my speed is not 35 knots by the _____, or for any other abnormality by the _____ (abort point); after that, if I'm in the air and have power failure, **glide**—at 75 knots; **grass**—fly toward _____ to land; **gas**—auxiliary fuel pump on and fuel selector evaluate (if engine restarts then climb up and evaluate); **gab**—radio call "may day" (if I have time); **guts**—turn fuel selector off and set flaps as desired then turn master switch off; **get out**—after landing."

The previous paragraph is laborious to read

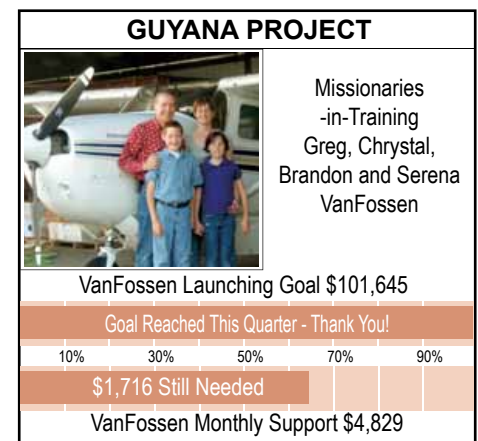
through, and repeating it every takeoff is even more so. The intent is to maintain an abort mode in the pilot's mind so reaction time is decreased to less than one second from what normally takes two to three seconds. As we repeatedly go through the checklist, we "think" about it less, and it begins to become habit. Our brains are so wonderfully made that repeated activities can be done without using as much of our frontal lobe resources. Thus, when the anxiety around a situation interferes with our ability to think, we will automatically do as we are "habituated."

*Might it be that the
"abort" mode
in the Christian life
is not canceling the
relationship but being
flexible and willing
to cancel plans
so I am open
to God leading
in a different direction. . .*

In Ephesians 6 we are told to put on the whole armor of God. Then we are given a checklist: *gird loins with truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of preparation of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and prayer.* I need to ask myself, "Do I do that before I take off each day?" Perhaps the intent of this list of items is not to focus on the list but on what carrying them out will do—putting my mind in a mode that will help me avoid or cope with the devil's "gremlins" even when emotions cloud the thinking part of my mind. The best way to minimize the risk of flight in a high-risk environment is to review the issues that are likely to cause problems. Is the risk of a failure any less in the "spiritual" flight?

The checklists at times seem tedious, and I may be tempted to skip over them because we are in a hurry. But then I think of some of the accidents that have happened in the past related to something that was missed. The reason for doing the checklists reinforces the desire to do them. As the process becomes habit, the routine becomes less tedious and more natural—the reason rather than the mechanics is what I think about.

The mechanics of a relationship with Jesus can seem tedious. Taking time to read the Word, pray and render Christian service can seem a bit tedious, and a spirit of apathy may overwhelm me. Skipping that devotional time would give me more time for other plans. But then isn't this whole great controversy about the ability to trust God and build a relationship with Him? The devil comes up with lots of distractions—including time constraints—to keep me from doing those activities that will enhance my relationship with Jesus. The abort mode for a pilot is critical to maximize safety: being ready to do the best action, and quickly, if an undesired situation arises. Might it be that the "abort" mode in the Christian life is not canceling the relationship but being flexible and willing to cancel plans so I am open to God leading in a different direction than what I am at first aware of? Even at the last minute? Could it be that the "abort" mode in the Christian life maximizes the safety of my relationship with Jesus—and what my coping mechanisms should be when **life** does not go as **I** planned?



GUYANA

Providing for Physical and Spiritual Needs

by Jud Wickwire

“I KNOW THERE IS A LOT OF WORK LEFT IN YOU because I didn’t get much out of you; that’s what my daddy always said to me, anyway.” Travis was always up at dawn while the howler monkeys were still roaring in the trees at the edge of the airstrip and was always quick to give us all a good motivational quote to get things started. Travis was the undisputed driving force behind our construction team in the village of Baramita. After putting out the request for this project earlier in the year, we had several people show an interest, but one by one they dropped out; that is, until Travis made a commitment. While his desire was genuine, I learned later that he was actually ‘sent’ by his family and home church in Pound, Wisconsin, who knew that his skills and experience running his own construction crews would be a great asset.

At first he was the only volunteer, and I figured that along with some local assistance we would just get as much done as we could. God had a better plan though.

Lori, who was acquainted with Travis, asked if she could come and

help too. Then Len, one of our dedicated aircraft mechanics and a building contractor, came on board. Finally Irwin, had arrived for his six-month service just in time, and the Wickwire family, rounded out the team that filled both airplanes as they headed into the village on April 17th to get started.

Our first and most daunting task involved placing the three 38-foot-long 6”x8” bulletwood beams on the top of the eight-foot-high cement columns. We estimated that they probably weighed at least 1,000 pounds each. It was Sunday, so we rounded up all of the gold miners that were imbibing at nearby watering holes, and, with a little ingenuity, a whole lot of brute force and a few moments of fear, we had them up and in place by early afternoon. As the week progressed, we began to realize just how important each and every person was to making the project come together. Lori, Irwin and Karen fed the 20-foot-long 1”x12” boards into a thickness planer nearly continuously for days on end while Len and Travis faced the challenge of assembling the chainsaw-cut dimensional lumber into what quickly became a very attractive building. Jake and Zack took on the many tasks of carrying materials, site cleanup and delivering water. Without any one of these people, there would have been a gap in the team, and we would have had very different results.

As the building took shape, the next challenge was lifting the finished walls, complete with siding, into place. Again, we had to round up a number of local volunteers to make it happen, but the result was impressive. I had purchased the metal

roofing several weeks before, hoping that it could be there in time. It shipped by boat from Georgetown to Port Kaituma, then by bush truck to Baramita; unfortunately, due to a series of events, including the engine in the transport boat breaking down, it only reached Kaituma just as the team needed to leave for their flights home.

The project now is ready for the next phase to take it to completion, and we look forward to additional financial and volunteer support to see it ready for occupancy.

The hard work and dedication of the visiting volunteers had a tremendous impact in the community. Not only was the construction completed at an amazing pace, but it was clear that the volunteers’ commitment came from the heart, with a genuine desire to help the people of Baramita. The completed house will provide a much-needed base for long- and short-term mission volunteers ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the community. *AWAY*



Travis

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.



Investing in God's Mission

Continued from cover

lies making copies of keepsake Beltsville Ballers' winning basketball game videos that were given as a thank you for a \$50 donation. A donation of \$60 given by a senior citizen from the British Virgin Islands, who was touched by the music ministry of a brother and sister during a mission trip. Families sold ethnic food at the Annual International Day fund raiser held at the church. The children were determined to reach their \$1000 goal, even getting relatives to donate online.



Check Presentation

Just as God would have it Don Starlin was in town for a family get together during the same weekend that was set for the club Investiture. Over the past

3 years, he has given video, materials and inspiration that planted the seed. It was fitting for him to be here to harvest the results. He happily accepted the invitation to speak at the event, and share photos and stories with the children. He was genuinely surprised by donation amount and expressed that every \$25 touches one life in the AWA ministry. Praise God!

Training young children to be mission minded has wonderful consequences. Not only do they practice sharing, and donating money, but they influence everyone around them to do the same. *When young people catch the vision of what they can do for God, and become convinced that they can make a difference, even at their tender age the fire of inspiration supplied by the Holy Spirit can propel them to do great things.* Solomon reminds them to ***“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them.” Ecclesiastes 12:1.*** May God continue to reach hearts for the kingdom through this ministry. AWA

Six class groups are awarded honors during investiture.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN HONOR OF	DONOR
Kim Gasper's Brother	Paul & Kim Gasper	Manuel S. Perez	Francisca S. Perez	All Missionaries	Anthony & Margarita Bonilla
Dean Dietrich	Elwin & Alma Liske	Margaret Pride	Steve & Mary Lou Pride	Jesus Christ	Bart J. Kuhlmann
Blossom Engen	Marguerite Ross	Hermia Rodriguez	Ralph & Marcella Rodriguez	Mark Finley	Marilyn A Cousino
Dorothy Heidtke	Harold E Heidtke	Esther D. Schroeder	Walter & Esther Schroeder	Robert Folkenberg, Sr	Lauren & Cheryl Moulton
Harold P. Hoover	Esther P Sharpes	David Show	Richard & Dorothy Show	Mell & Klempay's marriage	Timothy & Karen Stick
Dale Howell	Eleanor J Howell	Jim & Larry Starlin	Charlene A. Starlin	Mell & Klempay's marriage	Judy A. Mell
Walter Kaiser	Ruth H Kaiser	Jim & Larry Starlin	Harry & Joanna Schultz	Mell & Klempay's marriage	Joseph & Christine Johnsen
Herbert Kroschel III	Loren & Hazel Davis	Meryl Tiffany	Steve & Mary Lou Pride	Joaquin Mayoral	Ramon & Bonita Mayoral
Charlene Kuebler	David F. Kuebler	Jennie Voorhees	Lee & Marilyn Sheive	Len Sherwood	Jacob P. Richardson
Jeff Loucks	Reginold & Jeanette Eighme	Jean Welch	Kenneth & Melissa Gano	Steve Vail	Marilyn A. Cousino
Ross D. Menzer	Roger W Menzer	Edward Yanez	Barbara A. Yanez	Dennis Wilkerson	Bruce & Monique Wilkerson
Kevin Montroy	Paul & Kim Gasper				

A Word from the President: Ric Swaningson

THE ADVENT MOVEMENT HAS BEEN PROCLAIMING Jesus' message, "I will come again," now for more than 160 years—and with great excitement. However, the fact remains—we are still waiting for Him to come. Why is this? My wife, Dawn and I believe that it is because of us—all of us—His children. Jesus is waiting for maximum attendance before He comes to bring His children home. He is now preparing our home, our mansions for us. Jesus wants every one of those mansions filled. I visualize Him building the mansions, making additions, setting the tables, arranging all the ornaments, making everything just right. Then, just as soon as the entire world has had the opportunity to make their decision about following Him, He will come. But we actually have an active role in the hastening of His coming. The Great Commission is set before us. That responsibility is enormous and it is for each one of us. As we look out over the field yet to be harvested, we can see that the harvest is ripe and ready. Yet, there is still time to go into other fields that are rich and fertile with rapid growth soil and continue planting. There are areas of the world where the joy of knowing Jesus is very teachable and reachable. However, we struggle on how to get there. Sometimes that is the more difficult part—how

Within AWA we use special equipment, skilled pilots and their families, and highly trained volunteers to help those in need. Through aviation we are able to heal, teach, take the gospel to "all the world," reaching the unreachable. This is done with great sacrifice and dedication. We are indeed reaching the unreachable.


When I was invited to become the new

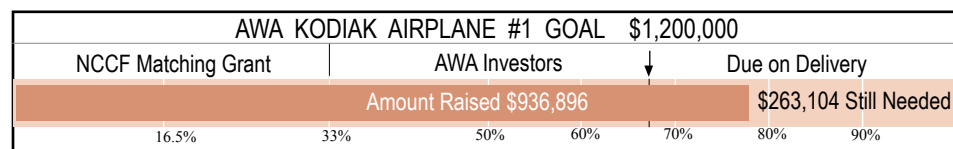
president of Adventist World Aviation, my inadequacies came rushing before me, consuming me like a flood. Overwhelmed, I went into deep prayer, I prayed, "Lord, how am I worthy to be part of this organization?" For hours I prayed. Then God's answer came loud and clear. "Ric, you can do all things through Christ which gives you strength." Philippians 4:13 (personalized)

So, with His strength and courage, I accepted the presidency position with AWA.

The responsibility of AWA is very large; yet, the task is simple—bring the message of love, peace, healing, saving grace and kindness to the corners of the world. It is not the work that is complex; it is the sacrifice that becomes the issue.

I am now privileged to work with those at AWA who have been willing to sacrifice everything to be one of Jesus' disciples. The precious AWA missionaries continue to sacrifice the daily comforts that you and I take for granted. Their decision was easy—it's the sacrifice that was difficult. Yet they do it as worthy servants for Jesus. It's because they trust Jesus completely. They trust that He will provide their every need; that He will empower them. I pray daily that I am also willing to make the sacrifice to be one of Jesus' disciples.


There are still many people in the world that have yet to hear about Jesus—maybe even in your own community. Jesus is delaying His return until everyone has had the opportunity to hear about Him, choose Him and make their own decision. I cannot say "no" to Jesus in this call. How about you? It is my honor and privilege to be part of the AWA team. How about you? Will you also join in and support our team? 



Note 6-17-2011 Corrected Graph: When it comes to fundraising for lofty goals of achievement, as well as building large projects, three major factors you can almost always count on:

1. It always costs more than you think.
2. It takes longer than you hoped.
3. Be prepared for unforeseen expenses.

This is no less the case in the Kodiak Project. Expenses for this project were not included in the last report. The very good news is we are very close to the project completion and the ability to reach even more of the unreachable!

There is yet \$263,104 to bring our project to fruition. 

PHILIPPINES

Meeting Physical Needs

by Ed Brennan,

Contributed with permission by Roy Reyes

WE WERE ASKED TO JOIN A MEDICAL OUT-reach and Muslim relations program in Brookes Point by Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS). This was a big outreach program with people from the United States, Manila, Puerto Princesa, the Palawan Adventist Medical Center and Brookes Point, involving about 45 volunteers. Part of the team was going to be housed on the PAMAS compound north of Brookes Point and the other half was to be housed in a pension house (think motel) on the south side of Brookes Point. Since AWA's mission includes transport support for outreach and mission teams wherever needed, we were asked to provide transportation to half of this multi-national outreach team, 23 people in all. We were also tasked with moving medicine, materials and supplies wherever the team needed them. Once the medical outreaches were completed each day, we moved everything back to the main presentation hall for the evening programs and then back to the pension house afterwards. The mission's little red pickup got a good workout, and came through with flying colors. God has been good to our little pickup and has kept it going even in the very remote locations of Palawan.

There were three separate medical outreach locations in three different barangays

of Brookes Point. During the day, we would lend a hand to the outreach teams which consisted of dental, ophthalmologist and medical teams. This is where Merilyn's experience working in hospitals as a Certified Nursing Assistant and Ward Clerk were of great benefit. During the evening, a team of Muslim relations experts provided studies on the similarities of the Bible and the Quran. They would also show in the Quran where it was important for them to acknowledge Jesus and to study the Bible. The nightly meetings were a huge success, with many of the attendees expressing their newfound understanding of both the Quran and the Bible.

God was not finished with the work, though. He decided to show us His hand in another more powerful way. Following is an excerpt from a testimony of Norvena, a native Palawano Muslim, as reported by Roy Reyes:



Dr. Estrobo examining a patient.

Norvena: "I do not usually go to health centers or medical missions, but I had a difficult condition in my eighth month of pregnancy. I usually just go to my mother who is known as a traditional healer in our village. But suddenly a change happened when a group of medical missionaries arrived from PAMAS. A still small voice was ringing in my ears and was pushing me to go immediately, so I got up out of my bed and went."



The Team

Roy Reyes: "It was late in the afternoon when Norvena arrived at our medical mission. As soon as she entered the room, she almost fainted; her blood pressure dropped to 70/60, and she looked very pale. We immediately rushed her to the nearest hospital. They put her on oxygen because of her difficulty in breathing. Her blood hemoglobin dropped to 40 mmol, which was very low (normal range 120-160 mmol). Immediately the doctor ordered two units of blood to be transfused. But there was no compatible blood for her, so the doctor talked to her husband to have her transferred to Puerto Princesa Hospital (four hours from Brookes Point). Her husband didn't want to go because they didn't have the money. But, praise God for His providence, the hospital provided for free ambulance transportation and endorsed the rest of the responsibilities to PAMAS.

In the hospital, two units of blood were immediately transfused (and later three more), and when she was in stable condition they did an ultrasound and found out that Norvena was carrying twins. The babies were also distressed, so the doctor ordered a C-section. They put the babies on IVs and gave them antibiotics because of sepsis (infection in the blood). After two weeks, Norvena and her twins were discharged from the hospital. The fear of Norvena's husband was answered by God with the help of Philippines Charity Sweepstakes Office, which took care of most of the costs! Glory to God!

Three lives were saved, and the whole family is rejoicing and praising God. Jehova Jireh... God provides!

It was an amazing, extremely busy, but so awesome two weeks! Satan tried several ways to intervene, but we increased our prayer sessions and were amazed at what God did! It was the best joint effort we've experienced with our team yet! We are so thankful to all the volunteers from the States, the speaker and AWA's Brennan family who made this effort possible!"

(Testimonies)

- One attendee said, "I have been unhappy and had questions for so long now. This is the first time in my life that my questions are being answered!" She requested Bible studies after the meetings.
- After one presentation, another attendee said thoughtfully, "Now I see that Jesus is really God!" She attended every night and helped with the medical missions,




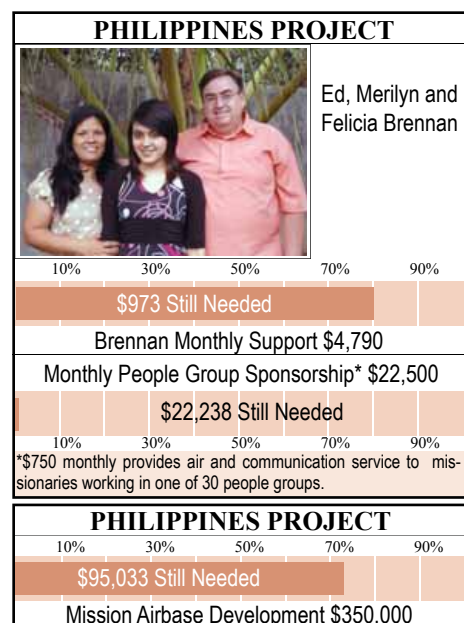
Wendy, Samantha and John evaluating patients.



Merilyn and Dr. Estrobo working with patients.

too. She is currently studying the Bible with our missionaries.

- God was showing not only the attendees that He is in control, but also the workers and missionaries involved. We have been blessed to be a part of such great work and to have been given the capability by God to be able to help out. Please pray for more of these opportunities to witness to a people who have not had a chance to hear about our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. 





Proclaiming Hope

by Zuko Mbewu, Student Missionary

Zuko sharing God's Word!

SEEING THAT I AM ONLY A STUDENT PILOT AT this stage, and that I am unable to join in the fun in the sky, I play my part the best way I know how, as a student missionary with Adventist World Aviation's Wings for Humanity. I begin my day with a walk to the local secondary school to share a four-part life skills program called "My Life Today." With permission from the Health Ministry to teach sound counsel to the local youth in matters of sex, drugs, addiction and abuse, I share Christian principles with the students. With each group of teens that listens to the seminars, I see changed attitudes, a desire for more knowledge and hope for the future.

The Village of Arakaka

One day Pastor Andre Williams pulled me aside and informed me that he was in the process of fulfilling his promise to me: that he would take me east to Arakaka to do some work there. Two days later, on a Friday morning, we got packed and met each other at Broomes Airfield. Jud Wickwire began his preflight on the Cessna 182 Pathfinder plane while we loaded our luggage. The way to Arakaka demands that we go to Port Kaituma first, and it so happened that the pastor had some

work for me to do in the Kaituma Church that weekend. Once aboard the aircraft, we taxied out and departed west on runway 017.

We took off into the low cloud base and rain; visual flight rules meant that we could cruise at 750 feet all the way west to Kaituma. Twenty minutes later we touched down, parked at the apron, off-loaded the plane and went to check in with immigration. Our taxi driver for the morning took most of my luggage, put it in the trunk and drove us to Kaituma Seventh-day Adventist Church where our living quarters would be for the weekend. Work began that Friday night with a Sabbath-opening sermon accompanied by a song on my guitar. Kaituma Church has become my home away from home; the members received me with much love and embrace. They have fed me on many occasions, always with smiles. Also, the Lord has allowed me to feed them with the spoken word and good lyrics, an experience that they have told me they praise God for!

Sunday morning, we were waiting for a bus that would take us from Kaituma to the village of Arakaka. We waited until 4:00 p.m. to get into the minibus; we would now be late for the first night of meetings scheduled for



Arakaka. Once our luggage had been loaded, we squeezed into the bus and were seated, four to five in a single row of seats.

About 400 meters into our journey, the bus slid around in some sticky mud (nothing unusual as it rains 70 percent of the time in Guyana) and lost its CV joint in the process. Some 300 meters later, the left front wheel came off the steering system and turned its own direction. We came to a sudden stop, assessed the damage and climbed out of the bus to watch the driver and his conductor fix the wheel for about 40 minutes, meaning that we would definitely be late to start the meetings. An hour into our bumpy and winding ride on the dirt road to Arakaka, we came to a section of the jungle route that had very sticky mud. The bus got stuck, and we had to disembark and walk in the slosh to try to push the bus

backwards. With wheels spinning and kicking up mud and with the clutch on fire, the bus lurched free of the muck.

Now we were all standing on the side of the road, covered with mud, free from the mud trap, but with another problem on our hands. The bus's radiator overheated and the fan belt gave up working as a result of being over-revved across the slushy path. By now we knew all too well that Satan was hard at work trying to make a failure of the first night of the revival. It took well over an hour and a half to fix these two problems. At last we had the opportunity to get into the vehicle and continue our journey to Arakaka. By now it was 8:30 p.m. and we had missed the first meeting. The bus came to a stop at our guest house and we, though drowsy and hungry, disembarked, off-loaded our gear and stumbled upstairs to find what would be our home for the coming week. Pastor Williams handed me my key and showed me to my room. Upon opening the door I was amazed at how smart and comfy the place was. Previously I had imagined the region we were in as just a village in the middle of a dense forest, but it turned out to be a delightful hamlet by the river surrounded by small clusters of Amerindian communities.

At Elder Darren Wilson's home

Once we had settled in nicely at our guest house, we made our way down to Darren Wilson's house, a two minute walk away. Darren and I had met previously in Kaituma SDA Church. Happy to see each other, conversation began, and we were served supper. Guyanese folk have something that the rest of the world does not have, and that is Jesus' love accompanied with genuine hospitality and sharing.

Brother Darren's house would be our regular meeting place everyday, three times a day for a week while in Arakaka. The man reminds me of what faith is and what it means to have the old time religion. As the elder of the church, he often leads out in song service and in matters that demand action—he indeed loves Jesus!

The Second Night

Seeing that we had missed the opening night of the revival, the second night became our first. By this time it looked as though not all the folk invited from the village would make it out to the church. Appeals were made at the end of the sermon and many made a decision concerning their hearts and faith in Jesus.

Guitar Trouble

It was then time for me to get acquainted with more songs so that I would be ready for the third night of the revival. There in my room I unzipped my guitar case, pulled out my Ibanez, and began tuning it up for a rehearsal. As soon as I began strumming and singing, it was all too clear that Satan had tampered with it; the strings had lost their true tone and the whole instrument sounded horrible. I had fitted my guitar with top-of-the-line strings within the last two months; they should last longer than this.


I reached for my spares and prepared for a re-string. The new strings took forever to tune, and once in tune they went out of tune rapidly. If you are a guitarist, you know there's nothing strange about this occurrence and that it lasts only for a few minutes. I spent almost an hour trying to tune the guitar; I practiced with it like that, growing increasingly nervous about it not being ready for that night. While at church, setting up the sound and my laptop, I decided to tune my guitar to see if it was well enough to perform with me. As soon as I tuned the first string it snapped; forced to abandon it, I turned to Stenneth to play the song for me on the keyboard. God showed His faithfulness to us; we played the song unrehearsed and got maximum results. Satan may not have been happy with the guitar ministry, but God had other plans!

The Big Debut

The time had come for me to get behind the pulpit and let God speak through me. This would be my big debut, as I had never

preached in an evangelistic meeting before. I had five days to share the faith of Jesus. The first night I shared a sermon entitled "Jesus of the Cross and not the Jesus of the Crucifix." The Lord gave me a bold spirit needed to communicate His truth to the people. I had no doubt that heaven had opened a window and God was pouring Himself onto the people and surrounding us with His presence. The sermons were short all through that week, but their clarity and power to change lives were definitely from above.

A strong Catholic lady had graced our meetings throughout the week, but when she heard the third sermon, "Jesus of the Masses and not Jesus for Mass," she became grieved and failed to show up the fourth night. After God took some time to change her heart, she showed up on the fifth night. I preached on the coming Kingdom of Christ and that for us to enter heaven we all needed to be baptized as Jesus was baptized by John. When I made the appeal to those who wanted to give their lives to the Lord, before she could get up, her drunken husband got up first and came forth, and immediately she too came forward, along with her son and a little girl from another family, and gave her life to the Lord. At the end of the benediction, the pastor then read the baptismal vows which the candidates accepted, and thereafter we had a night baptism by the river.

Although not at the helm of the yellow Cessna 182, it seems that I am *flying without wings*... forever soaring in the sky carried on God's wing! 

Zuko plays his guitar for special music.



AWA-CA
by Steve Syvertson

Training Up an Army!



Above: A young girl sits in a plane possibly for the first time, getting a feel for flight. **Left:** A mother and her son talk with the AWA-CA crew about the plane and learning to fly.

‘A DAY IN THE SKY’ TOOK PLACE, NOT IN THE SKY, but on the ground, at the Watsonville Municipal airport (KWVI) on a beautiful Sabbath in April. ‘A Day in the Sky’ is an event put on by the group ‘Shared Adventures’ that gives people with disabilities the opportunity to see aircraft up close. AWA-CA had participated in the past with a flight simulator, but this year we brought the Cheetah XLS to the event. We wanted to not just share our

program this year, but more importantly, we wanted to give the children the opportunity to get closer than close. We wanted to give them the chance to actually sit in the plane and have their pictures taken in it, not just in front of it. I was assisted at the booth by Erik and Jay Ketelsen and Tori Syvertson, my daughter.

As I was taxiing out to return the plane home to Marina, the announcement came over the radio, “Kodiak inbound landing

Watsonville.” I immediately pulled off the taxiway and got out to watch the plane land. The Kodiak taxied to the parking area and proceed to unload several people as well as three mountain bikes. Of course, I had to go and look at the Kodiak! This plane was purpose-built for mission aviation, flying in the bush and other remote flying. As I walked back to the Cheetah, I could not help but reflect on the differences between these two aircraft and how each plane has its strengths in different purposes. The Cheetah’s strength is low-cost flight training, while the Kodiak’s is mission aviation in remote places. Please consider supporting either the AWA Kodiak project or the AWA-CA project; each has their specific place in AWA’s world wide mission. And please pray for the success of both programs in helping to spread the Gospel around the world. AWA

ALASKA

by Fran Hansen

Developing Community

WE HAVE BEEN IN GAMBELL ALMOST A year. How time flies. Fran has been brave enough to sample some of the native foods here on the island while Mike has been enjoying taking pictures of all the activities.

In March the village celebrated Yupik Days by having a fashion show of traditional dress and Eskimo games including a blanket toss. The blanket is actually a walrus skin. It was very interesting.


The village has killed four whales so far this year and now are in the heart of walrus hunting season. Seals are hunted year round and one of the local men showed Fran how to scrape blubber off a seal skin. It is definitely an art, as are most of the tasks regularly performed by the people.

We had our Christmas program this past winter thanks to so many who donated gifts. We want to do this again in 2011 and it's never too early to start collecting donations. We will accept any and all donations for Christmas gifts!

The church is an approved Alaska food bank distribution site. We have met so many more people through the food bank. This month we gave out food to 79 households for a total of 345 individuals.

More than 40 children have come after school to play. We keep track by having small plastic cups with the names of the children on them. This way we don't waste paper cups and they always know which cup is theirs. The children are beginning to

build trust and share more of their stories: nine-year-olds getting drunk on home brew, eight-year-olds smoking marijuana with their parents. It is very sad yet all we can do is pray for them and offer a safe place for them to come and play. Some come simply to take naps because their houses were too noisy the night before and they couldn't sleep.

People talk about how both churches (the Presbyterian and Adventist) used to be filled every week for services; now neither one comes close. The village needs a revival. Please pray for the people throughout Alaska, that they will see their need and the hope that can be found in coming back to the Creator. 

ALASKA PROJECT				
10%	30%	50%	70%	90%
\$51,240 Still Needed				
Dillingham Hangar and Land \$100,000				



ALASKA

Encouraging the Church



by Jim Kincaid

THE FAR-FLUNG ADVENTIST CHURCH groups of Northwest Alaska are separated by great distances, but united with a common purpose and goal: that of speeding the gospel message and the coming of Jesus. On a recent Sabbath a group of members from Kotzebue traveled the 300 nautical miles to Barrow to share fellowship and encouragement. In the AWA Cessna 206 the trip took just over

two hours going and almost three hours on the return. Tony Sherman, missionary from the village of Shungnak, was able to come along for the day, for his first visit to the top of the world, relatively speaking.

Tony and his wife Airen moved to Shungnak with not much to go on but faith last fall. Since arriving, he has been employed as a village health aid, ensuring some source of sustenance in the village.

As a health care worker he is getting well acquainted with all the village residents at the very times when they need encouragement in the faith department.

In the summer picture Tony and Airen enjoy a Sabbath afternoon in the Brooks Range of northern Alaska. In the winter picture Tony marvels at the Barrow Welcome sign framed by the whale jaw bones.



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