



Mission Report

AWA Palawan Mission Project

The Espinosa Family



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Dear AWA Family and Friends,
 If there is one word to describe the Pathfinder Airplane (N81708), it would have to be “Teamwork”! At Oshkosh in 1999, the Pathfinders helped to raise money, and helped work to get the yellow plane ready for its first service in the jungle of Guyana, South America.

This trusty little yellow airplane relied on the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) Guyana team to safely fly it over dense jungles for over 5 years. In return, it flew thousands of missions, saving lives. Over the years, teams of mechanics traveled from the US and Canada to help the AWA Guyana team to support annual inspections and to ensure the plane was safe and mechanically-sound. Then, when

it was time for a major overhaul, a team in the States, MMS Aviation, volunteered time and talents to refurbish the yellow plane and breathe new life into this old war horse.

Later, The LaBore family

ferried it from the AWA office in Smithfield, North Carolina, where the office team had worked to make final adjustments before the LaBores flew the yellow plane on its first continental voyage to California. Laura’s dad, Jerry



Container in Palawan



Koptizke, a former bush-pilot in Bolivia, and Laura transported the aircraft up to Washington State for its final stop in the United States before it was handed off to the maintenance team that would prepare the aircraft for packaging into a 40-foot sea container. This team of highly qualified pilots and mechanics went to work taking the plane apart and securing it inside the ocean container. People who didn't even know they were part of the support team (donors!) sent in financial assistance to make the shipping of the container a reality. Some prayed, some supported physically; time and talents, while others contributed donations in-kind. Why did so many hearts and minds have a driven passion for the little yellow plane to reach Palawan, Philippines? The purpose was clear. The airplane would bring hope to those with no hope. The hope is that this mighty little bird will make a huge difference in a place, half a world away and that it will

enable missionaries to share the message of everlasting life through a personal relationship with our savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, the day arrived for it to be loaded onto the back of a truck and taken to the Seattle wharf to be loaded on a ship that would cross the Pacific Ocean to the port in Manila, the Philippines. We were elated to hear that the boat made it safely to port! Bill had remained in the Philippines for 2 months after his family returned home to California. His passion and vision was to shepherd the importation of the plane all the way to Palawan. Unfortunately, the timing was not such that Bill would be there to see the container arrive.

Now, we the local team will make sure it is safe as we welcome the next team. Bruce and Monique Wilkerson will manage the project and Josh and Yosidy Fix will arrive soon to be full time missionaries in the Philippines. Josh is a pilot and mechanic. We are excited for him

to fulfill the dream that started long ago by flying the plane here on the islands where there is so much need.

Thank you, donors, for being part of the team. Thank you, to those who pray, for tapping into the One Source of ALL Power. Ultimately, God is the main Force of this AWA team. With Him all things are possible and with you, our team is complete to serve and save souls now, and until Jesus comes.



Your AWA Mission Family stationed at the AWA Philippines - Palawan Project, Edgar & Raylene Espinosa