



Mission Report

AWA Palawan Mission Project

The Wilkerson Family



A Rare Warm Welcome at Puerto Princess Airport

landed full throttle adjusting to life in our new home and community.

Our Guyanese Pet is Hurt

We thank God that our friend, Tom Meighan, is watching the project base in Mabaruma, Guyana for a month or two. Scotia, our faithful cat was gone for a day and returned late in the evening. Tom found she had been bitten by a dog (so it appears). An open wound in the jungle is life threatening due to infection and worms that consume flesh and slowly kill her. Tom

sprayed her with a triple antibiotic used for livestock, and is containing her to monitor her progress and recovery. She is a survivor and has recovered from similar wounds before with TLC and, of course, God's healing hand.



A Changed Life

Brother Norman accepted the call to be Elder of the AWA Learning (Worship) Center! Four years ago, he stopped attending church. With the completion of the Learning Center, he

slowly began attending, then accepted the call to lead Sabbath School, then the call to lead Divine Service to fill in since Bruce and I were leaving Guyana. Now, he is one of the Elders of the township of Mabaruma! We praise God for this exciting news, the Great Controversy however, is alive and well.



Sister Evelin

Norman and his wife, Evelin, were burning trash when tragically, Evelin was severely burned when fuel spilled on her and the fire jumped, burning her arms and head. She was medevac to Georgetown and was there for two weeks before being discharged back to Mabaruma. Evelin is a beautiful 62-year old woman. Recovery from burns is a slow process. This could have discouraged Norman, but instead he is resolute about sharing God's word and leading the AWA Learning Center. This is a strong stance against many who believe just like Job's friends believed so long ago - that when bad things happen, it's because you've done something bad. Praise the Lord for Brother Norman, Evelin and their family, for faith stronger than a village's mockery.

We Arrived!

After a long journey we arrived at our new home in Sagpangan, Palawan. It began November 27th with a one-hour drive from Tammie's home (our daughter) in Manchester, TN to the airport in Nashville. After a debate with the Delta agent on the need to purchase departure tickets from the Philippines for Bruce, we agreed to purchase a departure ticket once in Seoul so the agent would let us board. Our flight legs included a short flight to Atlanta, flying north of Canada and North of Korea then south through China and a quick cut to Seoul, South Korea where we reluctantly purchased departure tickets to satisfy the airlines. After Seoul, a five- hour flight into Cebu and our final leg into Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Edgar and Raylene, our Philippine Project team members met us and drove us over an hour south to our AWA mission site. Although we were very jet-lagged from 19 hours of flying (not including layover times), we were so happy and thankful for God's safety and protection during our travels. We



Airstrip Views



We Have Our Own Weed-Eaters!

Airfield Assessment

Our first major goal is to finish work on our 2000' AWA runway so Civil Aviation Authority Philippines (CAAP) can grant us Permission To Operate. We need the airstrip by mid-February which means no time to lose. Reviewing the CAAP aerodrome standards, we assessed that the project is 70% complete. We met with the contractor to discuss progress and plans to finish the work. Next, we hired laborers to eradicate grass and weeds chest high so the grader can conduct a surface grade for a CAAP courtesy inspection. Please pray that we see God's leading in this work and we sense opportunities to share the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Meet & Greet

Aside from understanding project priorities and meeting with our teammates during our initial two weeks in country, we had customary meet and greets with the Palawan Mission (church conference) President and his Executive Secretary. We also traveled to Manila to meet with Church Union officials and Civil Aviation (CAAP) officials. We acquired firsthand experience with

metro Manila traffic when we traveled to Quezon to meet officials from the Department of Agrarian Reform. Sound busy? It was... but we saw God leading in each meeting as additional doors were opened which previously we thought were closed. Along the way, we had the privilege to share our vision of lifesaving work that AWA will do in 2020 by God's grace and Divine purpose.

Scripture for the Month

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

— 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Have troubles got you down? Leaving Guyanese friends and loved ones was very difficult. It was our first AWA mission post and we had become accustomed to Guyanese life. Now we are in the Philippines where we feel disjointed and out of place. In these initial days, maybe even weeks of adjustment, there will be sadness. Yet, we trust the Lord has called us here for a purpose and that the blessings will abound..



PRAYER REQUEST:

That AWA leaders, missionaries and supporters will sense God's leading to share the gospel unto all the world, then He will come.



PROJECT NEEDS:

• We need support team members to join our funding campaign to finish the runway and build a fence adjacent to the aerodrome. This will address safety and security as we seek CAAP approval to commence flight operations.

Funding still needed is \$66,500 to complete this project.

• AWA need pilots for Guyana and the Philippines willing to spend 2-3 months in-country and full-time workers willing to spend 3-6 years as overseas missionaries. Contact us at evp@awa.org if interested in service.



Your AWA Mission Family
stationed at the
Palawan Mission Project:
Bruce and Monique Wilkerson