



Excitement ran through the team as Sir Bruce cracked the seal on the sea container. Inside the container the Pathfinder airplane had been carefully packed and stowed months ago along with the much-needed tractor and other items. The doors creaked and groaned on their hinges and Sir Bruce slowly pulled them open. Much to everyone's relief, everything inside appeared safe and sound. The container had shipped from Washington State, had gone on to Manilla and then here to our island, Palawan. Finally, it was put on a truck to haul to the mission base. A lot can happen when you travel halfway around the world!

The team carefully removed the items, scrutinizing each piece for possible damage. The vitally important process continued slowly over the next few days.

How would the plane be kept out of the sun, heat or rain? The plane needed a shelter and the team needed a place to work. A hangar is needed not only for the plane, but as storage for the tractor and tools.

In order to be as frugal as possible, we decided to use the container that the plane had shipped in for one wall. Another container that we already had would be the other wall. A cement floor will need to be poured, a back wall built and sturdy gate at the front.

Until this can happen, though, we needed a shelter for the team to be able to reassemble the plane. The decision was made to use bamboo and a tarp, and I was in charge of making it happen. We secured the bamboo with rope. I was grateful for the knots I had learned in Pathfinders many years ago. I have used those sort of skills all these years and I am happy that we continue to teach them to our youth.

The area was now shaded, and the team went to work reassembling the plane. Not only did the tarp provide shade, but it also provided relief from the torrential rains. One day I noticed that the tarp was sagging, and I pondered if perhaps the strong winds had moved it. I climbed up to further investigate and found that all the



knots were loose! “WHAT???” I knew I had done a good job with the knots, but I realized that the knots weren’t the problem. The bamboo that we had used was green, and as it dried it had shrunk enough to loosen all the knots. I retied everything and secured the tarp well. We spent extra money on the tarp, one that will last a couple of years in the tropical rains and sun. Still, this is no way to operate efficiently. We simply must raise money for a new hanger!

A safe place to store the plane here is very important. There are many in our area who like to break and enter and steal. During the dry season, which lasts 6 months, we may not see a drop of rain! Wells go dry, gardens dry up, the search for food, both for man and beast picks up. So does stealing, as there are few options for making money in that season. Bamboo will NOT hold back thieves. We are looking to build a solid hanger as soon as possible. We know that God’s angels will surround and protect, but we also can’t be presumptuous about it either. We must do ALL we can to protect God’s assets.

Thank you SO much...all of you who have donated generously to the runway project! We can’t wait to see the next crucial step come together. Please help us get the hangar completed. It will be a safe place for the plane and tools. Thank you!

*God bless you!*

*Edgar & Raylene Espinosa*

