

A FRANTIC RIDE IN THE DARK CHRIST'S METHOD ALONE



PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT

# **Back to Normal**

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**OFF THE GRID** - AWA Reality Program aired on Dish Network 3ABN Channel on Mondays at 1 PM Central

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

Adventist World Aviation exists to provide aviation and communication support to those serving the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the unreached and forgotten peoples of the earth.

#### ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

AWA is a 501 (c)3 non-profit missionarysending agency. Funded by private contributions, AWA enables missionaries to reach the unreached around the world.

#### SUBSCRIPTION

Your gift of any size this year will ensure support for those in great need around the world. Please donate \$20 to offset the printing and mailing costs annually. Thank you! It is nice to see our country beginning to open up!

It is also nice to see we are getting back to "normal" and not a "new normal."

We see people meeting together in person for the first time in many places; restaurants have opened again to dining in, and many public places are again open to "the public."

One of the things that encouraged me during this small time of trouble was this - after the 1918 Flu

pandemic, when it was over, everyone went back to normal as if nothing had ever happened. Some hygiene lessons were certainly learned and the understanding of good health became part of normal life. But aside from that... everyone just went back to living a normal life as if nothing had happened. After the dust settled very little was said.

It looks like we are heading to that welcome place in 2021-2022. I personally enjoy going out to eat without a mask and visiting church members again; shaking hands (hand sanitizer notwithstanding), giving hugs and singing without fear. It's nice to live again! To breathe again!

Hope is an essential part of what we here at Adventist World Aviation (AWA) are all about. In fact, it's part of our banner!

### "Giving Help to the Helpless."

### "Bringing Hope to the Hopeless."

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time, and for evermore.

—Psalm 121:7, 8

This year we started a good portion of our flight operations here in the USA, including mission of mercy flights, Angel Flights, and Hope Flights.

Here is a snapshot of two of those flights.

I asked Josh Fix if he would fly an angel flight for a woman who needed to travel to retrieve her belongings. Mary *(not her real name)* had been in an abusive situation. Without funds to make the trip, Mary needed to travel in safety to start the next chapter of her life. Mary was so grateful for the kindness. She praised God for the flight and a renewed hope in this new season of her life.

Melanie is another woman who received an AWA angel flight. She had undergone extensive surgery as part of her cancer treatment. The prognosis prior to her surgery was not good. Two options she faced were to be paralyzed or to not survive the surgery. When Melanie woke from the surgery, not only was she alive, but within days she was up walking with a walker! Everyone at AWA rejoiced for answered prayers. We had the privilege of flying Melanie back to her family where there were many hugs and tears of joy.

While we know there are still restrictions in certain places, we keep hope in the forefront of our plans. Our Global Operations Manager and Canadian Administrative Assistant were recently required to quarantine for 10 days upon returning to their home in British Columbia, Canada. With a Covid test prior to entering the country, and another one when they arrived, and then one again halfway through their quarantine, and finally another test at the end of the quarantine, they are now finally able to move about in their town. Our Philippines Project Manager is not able to return to the mission base and the workers living there face stricter quarantine; a harder lockdown is being enforced in Palawan as Covid cases spike. We're asking for prayer for our Palawan team during the serious situation.

In spite of these conditions, God is faithful. He will keep His children in the palm of His hand (Isa. 49:16). Stay hopeful! God bless you! And thank you for your prayers and faithful support of AWA's global mission work!

> Keep looking up, Pastor Ric Swaningson President / CEO



Pastor RIc with his granddaughter, Emma

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Missionaries, Josh and Yosiday Fix, with their boys, Isaac and Caleb, serve	

with their boys, Isaac and Caleb, serve at the La Tronquera, Nicaragua mission base. Please lift them in prayer and support their work as you are able. Story on page 6.



# **The Flight Plan**

#### by Sharon Williams

## WAY TO GO, KYLE!

How many of us set out to accomplish goals for our lives only to have circumstances take us away from those goals for one "good" reason or another? On the other hand, the exhilaration of actually achieving a goal that has been pursued and worked for diligently is one of the very best feelings.

A very exciting event took place for one of Adventist World Aviation's (AWA's) dedicated workers. On May 7, 2021 a questionable weather pattern in the morning caused the plans for the day to be delayed. But finally, that afternoon, Chief of Maintenance, Kyle Stevenson, flew his first solo flight!

"For the first time in 20 years of wanting to become a pilot, *I was*," he announced. "This is a major milestone in my pilot training that I have been waiting to accomplish for a long time. Soon I hope to finish up my written test and be signed off to take my private pilot check ride later this year."

Congratulations are in order and we wish Kyle all the best as he continues his flight training. As valuable as his many skills are within AWA, this adds another layer to his many talents.



## INTRODUCING BETCHIE AND CHRISTINE

Betchie Albaracin was born in the province of Mindoro, Philippines. Betchie met Bruce and Monique Wilkerson at the Napsan SDA Church early in August 2020. They immediately saw in this young lady a character and personality that fits in with Adventist World Aviation Foundation (AWAF). She was then invited to Sagpangan for a 10-day trial period as Project Manager Assistant and the rest is history (*see Betchie's article on page 10*).

Christine Cayetano: In April 2004, Christine's involvement with AWA started on a part time basis to help set up accounting records for AWAF operations. An opportunity to work for AWAF on a full-time basis was offered in November that year. In February 2005, Christine started as an official AWAF full-time employee. Accepting the challenge of working full-time was not an easy decision because it meant moving away from her home, leaving her family, friends, and all she had ever known. Christine's commitment and years of service are greatly appreciated.

### AWA MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Stay up to date with AWA mission projects by signing up to receive a monthly newsletter from a specific project. Go to flyawa.org to sign up or call us at 919-938-2029. As you read the mission stories, we ask for your prayers and ongoing support to be able to continue to reach the unreachable with the love of Jesus and the Good News of His soon return.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

JULY 26 to AUG 1 - AWA will be at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Fly-In & Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We look forward to meeting as many people as possible there to share the humanitarian work being done globally.

**AUG 4 to 7** - Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) International Convention is taking place in Orlando, Florida. AWA is encouraging as many as possible to join us for this inspiring event entitled **Three Angels' Messages: Into All the World.** I can't think of a better message for us to rediscover together.

#### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Sharon Williams is the AWA Development Director located at the Smithfield headquarters in North Carolina.



# A Frantic Ride in the Dark

### by Josh Fix

As the darkness completely covered the pine savannah, my family and I were having a supper of popcorn and banana smoothies with the project manager, Ray Young and his wife, Julie. We talked about the project here in Nicaragua, how things were going currently, and goals for the next few months.

While we were sharing plans, Yosi got a phone call from the community nurse. She spoke to the nurse in Spanish for a few quick minutes, then Yosi told me strongly that I needed to get ready to go! I ran to get my flashlight, water, and the keys to the base pick-up truck. I came back downstairs, and my wife told me that the nurse has a serious case with a patient who needed more care than she could give. We needed to drive the patient to the hospital in Waspan; 35 minutes away.

I drove through the dark toward the community, heading to the head elder's house which was about 10 minutes away. His son jumped into the truck and showed me the way to the house where the sick woman was. Once there, I walked up to the small home and saw that there were at least 15 people there, all concerned about this poor lady.

Three young men carried her out to the truck while she hung limply in their arms. She appeared completely unresponsive. The men put her in the back seat with another lady who held her head in her lap. The nurse climbed into the front seat and we rolled onto the dirt road that leads to town. About half of the road to the hospital is fairly decent with no potholes, but the middle section has potholes interwoven with the good sections of the road. You must make haste cautiously! About three quarters of the way there I heard something from the backseat and asked what was going on. The nurse told me that the patient was vomiting. I quickly gave them a small trash can and bag that my wife had prepared. I was glad to hear signs of life, but according to the nurse, the lady had already been vomiting extensively all day! As we started into town the woman continued heaving uncontrollably. I prayed that God would ease her stomach and shortly things were quiet in the back. I wasn't sure what the quiet meant, but I trusted God, knowing He was in control of the situation.

We pulled up to the small building and two men carried the patient into the hospital. The woman was still vomiting, but of course, at this point, it was just the wrenching dry heaves. Finally, they took her back to be seen by a doctor and I continued to pray, "Lord, be with her please." After about 20 minutes, we decided to return to La Tronquera. The woman who had accompanied the patient and the two men and I journeyed back together in silence.

Back at the mission post, I contemplated things here in Nicaragua. For about a month we have helped in five different situations to get people from one place to another. Four were trips to the hospital and one was helping transport some pastors where they needed to go. These trips reminded me of how easy we have things back home in terms of transportation. Just about everyone has a car in the US; and if you don't, then likely you don't have to look far for someone who does. Out here in these remote villages, if you have a car, you are the exception. If a medical situation arises, and there is likely not a vehicle nearby, you now have two problems: who can help treat my illness and how do I get to them? If the situation is very serious or a greater medical emergency, and you need to get to the big hospital in a larger city, you could be looking at many hours of travel time.

For a country that's not very large, it takes a long time to get from one city to the next due to the lack of a wellmaintained highway system. This hardship is even worse on the east coast where the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) mission base is. Our local guide and helper, Cesar, told us that their plight is slowly improving. He says, "There was a time when we felt completely forgotten in the east by the capital and larger cities in the west." There are some communities that don't even have roads to them at all - only river access! I'll leave you to imagine the kinds of perilous situations that can arise with those uncertain circumstances.



This is the burden of AWA. To make the world a little smaller for the folks in these remote areas and to connect them with not only physical help, but to connect them with a God that is coming soon to take them on the ultimate medivac to be forever with Him.

By the way, after three days, we got word that the sick woman we took to the hospital was feeling better and soon to be released. We praise God for His mercy and grace!

Won't you please help people like this woman and others who so desperately need help, care and compassion?

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Josh Fix, and his wife, Yosiday, and their children, Caleb and Isaac, are your AWA Missionaries stationed at AWA's Nicaragua Mission Base



# A Wonderful Adventure

### by Edgar Espinosa

For many years, in our small village, there were no Adventist children other than our two children, and 3 others from one other family. The church was very small. Then, Adventist World Aviation (AWA), along with several academy groups, helped to build a larger church in our village. I dearly wanted to start a Pathfinder club, but the rules had always said that one had to be a baptized member before they could join. Because God blesses and through prayer and bible study, there are now seven children that have been baptized! I was eager to start a club. As I was reading over the prerequisites to be a Pathfinder, I was excited to see that they had modified the rules so you didn't have to be a baptized member to join. Now others in the village were able to be in the club also.

The District Pathfinder club had plans to go camping in March of this year. Our club had been formed only a month before. The meetings had been irregular and many children weren't interested in putting in the time and effort, but we kept encouraging them. Our children, Earyl and Edrei, really encouraged the kids to come out. Finally, things started to pick up and instead of the usual one time a week, we started meeting every day from 4-6pm. The children wanted to learn all the skills of camping before going on the "big" camping trip. They wanted to know what the other more-seasoned groups knew so they wouldn't look too inexperienced.

As the day was drawing nearer to go camping, each child was instructed as to what they needed to bring: money for food, insurance, registration fee, etc. A uniform, bandana, stove and fuel were also needed. When the day came to head out, some kids contributed some money for food, but others just brought a few food items that wouldn't last long (including banana blossoms and unripe papaya). Some parents, though happy to have their children go on a



camping trip, weren't sure what Pathfinders or Adventism was all about. They were somewhat hesitant to let their children take their pots and stoves. The families are so poor that to lose one of these items would be a very sad thing indeed. We rounded up enough items to take along, and with blessings from God we bought enough rice and food to feed the children. We even found a stove and cooking pots for the trip. God is amazing!

The children arrived at the camping area and were registered. They were delighted to be a part of a large gathering of Christian youth. There was time for worship, prayer and singing. What a wonderful adventure they were in for.

During the camping trip, there were many different activities that were offered for the children to learn new skills while having great fun. Everyone in the group wanted to participate in every activity that was offered. They learned to pray before each task, asking for the Lord to help them learn each new skill. They participated in many activities and prayed many times each day. There was marching and drilling, cooking eggs on a stick, making camp bread, fire building, knot tying, semaphore signaling\*, hiking in the night, and many more wonderful new experiences! The children learned so much and when they were done, they could only exclaim, "when can we go camping again!"

There has been a change in the children now. Before they went camping, they knew only some of the basics of camping, but after so much work preparing, they fit right in with everyone else. They knew just what to do. They had become pros in only a month-old club! But more than that, the children drew nearer to God during their time with the other Pathfinders - which is the ultimate goal. They learned the importance of prayer and worship. We are anxious to see what will happen next for these precious youth.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Leading the Pathfinder club is one of the activities that AWA workers are engaged in while serving the community. Pathfinder Clubs are similar to the combined Boy and Girl Scout programs with a specifically Christian atmosphere. Teaching the youth, sharing with others and offering bible studies and encouragement through difficulties and trials are the things that your support makes possible. Thank you for praying and donating to the mission work in Palawan!

\*The Semaphore flag signaling system is an alphabet signaling system based on the waving of a pair of handheld flags in a particular pattern. ... The flags are held, arms extended, in various positions representing each of the letters of the alphabet.

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### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Edgar Espinosa, and his wife, Raylene, are your AWA Missionaries stationed at AWA's Philippines - Palawan Mission Base



# **About Our Father's Business**

#### by Betchie Albaracin

The small Napsan Church Youth Department is growing and expanding. Currently it offers a Friday night Bible study for the other youths that are not Adventists. Every first day of the month the group visits the sick and shut-in members and friends to enjoy Christian fellowship with one another. The youth program also collects egg cartons and gives them to the Tagbanua Tribe, natives in the island of Palawan.

During the beginning of 2020, Betchie was inspired to expand the church's youth ministry to teach the youth in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord, preparing them to serve Christ in all they do. Betchie believes that educating young people will not only prepare them to become future leaders, but also allow them to contribute to the church spiritually. In addition, she imagines a young person's days should be a happy time. But this period of the coronavirus pandemic makes it difficult. So Betchie thought of ways to help encourage others and started the "Friends and Foods" ministry. The Friends and Foods ministry includes teaching the young people Christian songs, playing musical instruments, reading and maneuvering through the Bible, and overcoming shyness.

One of Betchie's students, Vergel, experienced depression when the pandemic started because work became scarce, getting together with friends became infrequent, and learning through online classes without a phone or a laptop became very difficult. Vergel was not an Adventist Christian, but through Betchie's Friends and Foods ministry, he attended



morning and evening worship at Betchie's parents' home, as well as attending Sabbath services at the Napsan Church. What surprises the group is that although Vergel is shy, he is always willing to pray when asked. Vergel is also especially fun to be around because every time he learns a song, he bursts out in laughter as he listens to his voice.

As the Albaracin family got to know Vergel, they realized that Vergel experienced bullying just for being poor. Betchie's father, Rolly, recognized the need for a community-wide program to address the bullying. He worked with the barangay (village) leaders to establish the "Love, Grow, Serve" community program. Through the community program, Vergel learned to play the flute which provided him much confidence. Now, he is no longer afraid of the bullies.

Instead, Vergel himself, along with Betchie's sister, Fae, began a ministry called "Kapuktoys" which is translated as cassava. The members of Kapuktoys go out every Sunday giving out cassava root houseto-house because the group feels this could be an encouragement to others during this time of the pandemic when many homes are struggling to have enough food to eat. Kapuktoys' motto is: "When you feel stressed, do not lose hope. God listens to your prayers. Just be patient." In Isaiah 40:29-31 it reads, "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary."

Vergel has been recently baptized in Christ. How exciting to hear members of a small youth department,

in a small church, on a small island, in the country of the Philippines following the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Friends and Food; Love, Grow, Serve; Kapuktoys. Let us all be about our Father's business...

"When you feel stressed, do not lose hope. God listens to your prayers. Just be patient."

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Betchie Albaracin is a Project Manager Assistant at AWA's Philippines - Palawan Mission Base



# Like Miriams of Old

#### by Monique Wilkerson

This is the story of two Amerindian ladies who, together with their District Pastor and male mentors and confidants, have stepped up as leaders in their respective communities. Lesa of Barabina, and Veron of Hobo Hill, are following God's call to lead their community of believers.

Lesa took over for Monique Wilkerson as Sabbath School teacher in 2017. Her energy and enthusiasm were a surprise; as no one expected her to teach as if she had been teaching Sabbath School all her life. The small congregation's elder works for a mining company which takes him away from the village for long periods of time. When he is away, Lesa steps in to carry the banner of elder responsibilities also. Most recently, she encouraged Norman, a church member, as he slowly lost his sight, and she was among the comforters when Norman's nephew committed suicide. Lesa preaches, leads song service, and teaches children's Sabbath School when other members are unable to carry out their church duties. Sometimes, after a full day of covering all the key roles, Lesa finds herself simply drained at the close of Sabbath. But despite her physical exhaustion she is blessed beyond all measure! She knows her Savior enables her to fulfill the work that He has called her to do.



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

—I Peter 4:10,11

Meanwhile, in Hobo Hill, as soon as churches in Guyana could open, Veron was impressed to lead Sabbath services at the AWA worship center. The local elder had a compromised immune system and so was unable to lead out. Sabbath after Sabbath, Veron shares the message that God has placed on her heart, leads song service, prays, and encourages members in their faith journey. She has been a major contributor to a Spirit-led crusade where God drew many souls to baptism. She witnessed to a longtime skeptical neighbor who was impressed to start attending church. Veron praises God and gives Him all glory - for with God all things are possible. Veron has physical health challenges and often experiences severe migraines. In spite of these issues, she is faithful and a pillar of Christian knowledge and wisdom for the Hobo Hill Worship Center congregation.

Like Miriam of the Old Testament, Lesa and Veron are carrying forward the torch of the Gospel, sometimes in peace and sometimes in adversity. Please pray for these sterling women of God who are molding the next generation of Christians in each of their respective village communities.

# I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

-Philippians 4:13

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Monique Wilkerson, and her husband, Bruce, are project managers for Guyana and the Philippines; they are currently stationed at HQ in NC

# **Mission Nicaragua**

#### by Julie Young

### **Current Fishes and Loaves**

The tiny voices of Caleb and Isaac Fix spoke up from the backseat of the Toyota Hilux, "Miss Julie, when are we going to hand out the bag of teddy bears you brought?"

We had been going out visiting several communities, and I kept putting off handing out the teddy bears because I was worried that there just wasn't enough for the amount of kids that appeared whenever we stopped.

I asked Josh to stop at the next Miskito house in La Tronquera where I knew there would be about 5 kids. I handed out five different little bears to each child and decided it would be best if we left for the next stop. However, more children just kept coming from the other houses close by. With a sense of panic and not wanting to disappoint the little ones, I just kept reaching into my bag. Each time there was another bear, each one unique in some way from the others... and then I realized I had handed out over 25 bears!

I know God had His hand in this, and a lesson in fishes and loaves for me. I knew there were not that many bears brought with us in our suitcases. The joy on each small face, to have a soft bear to cuddle, in such a primitive environment, was a small, small gesture of Divine Love from our Lord above.

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

—Acts 20:35



### **Blessings Returned**

The community sent a representative to the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) mission base from the Moravian church. They were going to have a monthly meeting and were asking for a donation of food items. We felt it was important, as neighbors, to support those who have generously allowed us to use the land where the base is situated. We donated a 100-pound bag of rice and a liter of cooking oil. The next Sabbath after we left, we were sent a video clip from our base caretaker, Ervin. Those same church members were all standing in a circle in front of the plane on the base. They were blessing AWA in singing, fasting, and prayer. It was a precious confirmation that our efforts were worthwhile.

One of the most rewarding outreaches we did while in Nicaragua was to meet with the local Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) elders. We visited one of the churches that your support funds built. We handed out much needed Spanish Bibles and Steps to Christ books. As always, the elders had a shopping list of things still needed for their churches. *If you are interested in contributing to these specific needs, please reach out to julie@flyawa.org and she can tell you about some of the requests made by the pastors.* 

Approximately \$6,000.00 USD per year will support a SDA Conference-approved pastor in the community of La Tronquera. He would be God's Shepard there and travel to other areas watching over the flocks. To build a church and develop a flock for Jesus but have no shepherds is foolish. We have many new churches waiting to be built or finished and we want to keep building for God's Kingdom, but part of that building plan is to train up new pastors. The local SDA Conference has asked for our help. Let's pray that God will provide the funds needed through His faithful family members. Together we can accomplish these goals.

Global Operations Manager, Ray Young, has invested time this year in visiting as many AWA Projects as Covid19 restrictions allow. Each project is important and unique in its needs and each one has to be overseen annually to be sure we are stretching the dollars as far as possible for God's glory.

Please continue your regular monthly giving for the much needed support of all the AWA projects. Whether you give \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$500 per month; *it is an investment in people*, *God's children, for His honor and glory*.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

-Romans 14:19

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Julie Young, Administrative Assistant in Canada, and her husband, Ray, AWA's Global Operations Manager, are stationed at the AWA Canada Headquarters in Kelowna, BC.

# **Bite-Sized Donations**

From the bottom of our hearts, we at AWA are thankful, appreciative, and grateful to all of you who are actively involved with our bite-sized donations program.

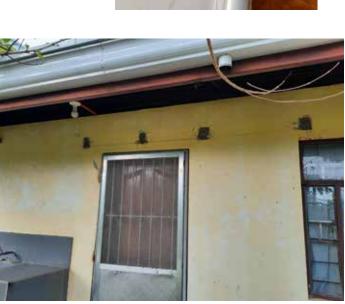
Donations in response to the last Airways provided funds needed for several projects. Our Philippine project assistant feels safer now that she can stay in her place of work with her year of housing subsidy provided. The Fix family is now able to purchase new cookware for use at the mission base in La Tronquera, Nicaragua. The Runnes will be purchasing a new water pump to replace the inoperable one while conducting their pre-deployment assessment in Guyana.

Please look over our bite-sized donations list to see where you can become involved.

**\$50** A \$50 gift will replace the Guyana Hilux truck side mirror broken by children playing around the vehicle. An additional \$200 gift will be able to replace the currently dead battery too.



**\$150** A \$150 gift will fix and repaint the wall in the Philippines mission house where old door frames were taken out.



**\$300** A \$300 gift will allow the Guyana Project to direct the water overflow from the higher elevation airstrip away from the Learning Center by creating a concrete drainage.





**\$650** A \$650 gift will replace the four tires on the Toyota Helix truck in Nicaragua. The condition of the roads tears up the tires on the truck which is used for medivacs and transportation of supplies as well as the missionaries' primary vehicle.

**\$5000** \$5,000 is urgently needed for AWA's depleted Emergency Medical Fund. This fund helps with medical needs of AWA mission workers. Approximately \$3,500 is needed immediately to cover the cost of surgery for a missionary worker abroad. The full amount or any portion will help. (*Details are not listed for the individual's personal privacy.*)



**Gifts-in-Kind** We give all glory to God for He alone is deserving of praise and honor for moving hearts and minds to support His ministry. Recently, many tools and equipment were donated by the family of a third generation auto mechanic to support the needs throughout AWA. These tools will be used by our Chief of Maintenance as well as all our projects, foreign and domestic when conducting repairs. Prayerfully consider your gifts-in-kind that can be donated. Heartfelt supporters in the past have supported AWA with gifts such as: cell phones, laptops and computers, cars, boats, planes, land and homes. If you have something you would like to donate, but are uncertain about its use in the ministry, please contact us at 919-938-2920 or info@flyawa. org so we can discuss the benefits of supporting AWA with your gifts in-kind.



# **Angel Flight Miracles**

by Rebecca Stevenson

It's said that while there is mission work to be done overseas in international countries, there is plenty to be done right here in North America. The whole world is a huge neighborhood. Where we decide to make ourselves available to serve in that giant neighborhood is a difficult decision due to the tremendous need in so many places. Adventist World Aviation (AWA) flies in several countries globally, but we also fly missions here in our own backyard, the USA.

The amazing work God orchestrates for us at AWA is heart-warming to all who are involved. It is inspiring and transforming. Do you remember Melanie? Melanie is an extraordinary woman of faith who had been battling an incorrectly diagnosed form of cancer. It was killing her and her only option was a high risk surgery that would yield one of two outcomes; either she would die on the operating table, or she would never walk again. What dismal outcomes! AWA stayed in contact with Melanie after the initial angel flight we did for her, and when we got the news of how risky the surgery was going to be, we doubled down on our prayers. We



called to ask other teams of prayer warriors at several churches to join in. Then we trusted her to God's loving hands and waited.



Melanie made it through two grueling 12-hour surgeries! She was alive and able to move! Melanie braved over 3 weeks of rehabilitation. When we went to pick Melanie up, she was walking with a walker, no more cancer, and ready to see her family that she'd been separated from for a month. What a blessed occasion it was!

Little Walter, the young boy who has stage 4 neuroblastoma cancer who was flown last fall to Charlotte for treatment has been through trial and fire since then. We have prayed and watched in all his many treatments how the little warrior hasn't given up. God answers prayers to extraordinary degrees. Though Walter still has a ways to go, he has improved. That is worthy of our joy!

One of AWA's most recent flights was for a widowed husband and father, Butch. His wife had died from complications from Covid19 and his daughter, Kris, needed to relocate him from Georgia to her home in Durham, North Carolina. Pastor Ric came to the rescue with the offer of an angel flight. Within a week Butch was flown here to NC. Once he was settled in, the joy and adventure continued. Kris and Butch began doing Bible studies with Pastor Ric. They fell in love with their Savior and His Word like never before and soon both Butch and Kris were standing in the baptistry at the Wilson First Seventh-Day Adventist church in Wilson, North Carolina.

Heaven rejoiced as Butch and Kris were submerged in the baptismal pool, begining their new walk with Jesus. Not too long after this, however, Butch fell ill and was in and out of the hospital. The doctor's prognosis was that Butch would not recover from his illness. Butch went to rest on May 19th in the Durham VA Hospital. Though our hearts are saddened, we have the assurance of seeing him on that glorious resurrection day. He fell asleep in Jesus and to Butch it will only be a moment when he will see his Lord. Kris has a bright hope in her coming Lord. She is in awe of how Butch's passing has been used to open the door for witnessing to her other family members.

This is the impact that your prayers and donations have on those we serve. You keep us flying and serving wherever we can... bringing hope into the lives of precious souls. If you haven't yet joined the AWA family, simply call AWA Headquarters, 919-938-2920, or go online, flyawa.org to start your monthly support of this invaluable work. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

### MEET THE AUTHOR...



Rebecca Stevenson is the Administrative Assistant to Pastor Ric. Kyle, her husband, is the AWA Chief of Maintenance. Rebecca, Kyle, and their daughter, Hadahsa, are stationed at AWA Headquarters in Smithfield, NC.

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# **JOIN THE AWA TEAM!**

You don't need to be a pilot to be a mission worker for Adventist World Aviation. Both mission pilots and other missionaries are urgently needed. Do you have a desire to share Jesus with others, to live in another country and learn a different culture? Adventist World Aviation is expanding into other parts of the world and urgently needs pilots, A&P mechanics, A&P IA's, certified flight instructors (CFI), project managers, Bible workers, and medical personnel. Pilots must have instrument ratings, commercial ratings, and high performance ratings.

Anyone interested should also have a strong desire to share the love of Jesus with others. Please send a resume to Adventist World Aviation, 3457 Swift Creek Rd., Smithfield, NC 27577, or by email to info@flyawa.org.

# Charitable Gift Annuity — How It Works

Mary\* is the director of development for a Christian charity. In talking with a local church member, she discovers that he is not completely satisfied with the rate of return on his current investments. He has actively been giving to the charity for years, so Mary asks if he's ever considered a charitable gift annuity. He's heard of this giving option, but doesn't understand how it works.

**Step One:** You, the donor, gift cash or other property to the charity.

**Step Two:** You will benefit from an income tax deduction, and the charity pays you a fixed amount based on current rates and other market variables at the outset of the annuity.

**Step Three:** At the end of the gift annuity, the remaining principal is passed on to the charity.

Adventist World Aviation (AWA) in partnership with Western Adventist Foundation (WAF) provides the opportunity to donate to a cause you believe in; to an organization you trust will honor your wishes to help others.

Not just anyone is qualified to manage your finances. You want a person that understands your ethics, beliefs and values while at the same time possesses the legal knowledge and financial wherewithal to make the process easy to understand and exactly what you need.

WAF maintains complete confidentiality of those on whose behalf they are working. Our longstanding knowledge of this business, coupled with our best practices and expert team, positions us to serve you like no other entity.

The team at Western Adventist Foundation is dedicated to you and to God's work through the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. From managing millions of dollars to performing basic accounting tasks, all our work is executed with this focus in mind.

James H. Brown, MBA, CSPG is the president of WAF. Over the years, James has collected years of experience within the church as controller, treasurer, associate director, manager of a foundation managing assets close to \$500M, and eventually, vice president of Western Adventist Foundation. He transitioned into the role of CEO in 2001.

For more information on a charitable gift annuity or other planned giving, email us at info@flyawa.org or info@wafsda.org.



And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:... Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

-2 Corinthians 9:8,11

\*fictional name and character used for illustration purposes



# **Great Day for a Pilot**

#### by Kyle Stevenson

Chris Adams Flight Academy (CAFA) is a flight school that Adeventist World Aviation (AWA) has partnered with to help with flight training. I had been scheduled with Fabien Couteaud, CAFA's owner and flight instructor, to fly with him to get signed off so I could solo fly. Getting up early to fly ahead of questionable weather did not work. When I got to the hangar the weather had taken a turn for the worse.

Fabien and I stood outside looking at the sky trying to decide whether or not to fly... when suddenly a loud *boom* cracked overhead! A thunderstorm was building right next to the airport. Instantaneously, we decided to call off the flight that morning and pray for clearer weather later in the day. I continued to finish up the annual inspection on the plane that I was working on and by midday the storm had blown over. The weather was perfect now!

I quickly pulled the plane out and did my preflight inspection only to find out the aircraft battery was dead! The 1967 Piper Colt had not flown for a while so I quickly swapped out the battery to go flying. With the preflight done, I was ready to go.

Fabien and I took off in the plane, did some maneuvers and some pattern work to show my capabilities, then after 3 consecutive good landings, I was ready to go alone. I taxied the plane back and Fabien hopped out. I was now on my own in a plane for the first time ever in my entire career of aviation. It was a great feeling! I knew I was ready and had the skills to do it, but that did not keep my nerves calm. I was both excited and nervous at the same time.

I taxied the plane up to runway 3 at Johnston Regional Airport and made my radio call, "Johnston Regional, Piper Colt 5302 Zulu departing from runway three, Johnston." I did my pre take off checklist: Fuel-On, Mixture-Rich, Runway heading, Full throttle. The plane came alive and started rolling down the runway. I pulled back on the yoke and I was off.

I was to do 3 consecutive landings on runway 3, but just as I started to turn downwind in the pattern I heard a radio call from Fabien informing me of a wind shift.

"You need to change runways," he informed me.

"Not a problem," I said, "I know the procedure for that."

I turned the plane for the center of the airport and overflew the runway to enter the pattern for the opposite side of the airport for runway 21. I set up for my first landing and all was going well... but my nerves got the better of me and while I made a "good" landing, I knew I could do better. I did a "full stop," taxied the plane off the runway and back around to compose myself. I took a breather for a moment; realizing what I had just accomplished.

For the first time in 20 years of wanting to become a pilot, I was. I had just completed my first takeoff, flight and landing all by myself. "Right," I said to myself, "2 more to go." The second time around I did better, but the wind got me at the end. The third time was a charm and I got it perfect! I even impressed myself with the landing! Now that it was all completed, I taxied the plane back to the hangar and celebrated my newly acquired skill of being able to solo fly an airplane. This is a major milestone in my pilot training that I have been waiting to accomplish for a long time. Soon, I hope to finish up my written test and be signed off to take my private pilot check ride later this year.

Thank you for your prayers and support for all of us at AWA. Some are in various stages of their flight training, but we all are committed to being the best we can be in God's service. If you feel a calling to be a mission pilot, please email info@flyawa.org. God bless!



Fabien Couteaud (CAFA) with Kyle Stevenson (AWA) after Kyle's first solo flight

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Kyle Stevenson is the AWA Chief of Maintenance. He and his wife, Rebecca, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Ric, and their daughter, Hadahsa, are stationed at AWA Headquarters in Smithfield, NC.



# **Christ's Method Alone**

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, "Follow Me."

The Ministry of Healing, EG White, pg. 143.

Great portions of the river banks wash away and expose ancient history every year in Alaska. When it is springtime the rivers fill with melting snow water. Entire body structures of woolly mammoths have emerged from their ancient burial sites, some fresh frozen with vegetation still in their stomachs!

#### by Jim Kincaid

Because of the type of flora and fauna that comes to light, experts agree that Alaska was once home to a tropical climate which likely changed very quickly. Because of the size of the bone structures uncovered, the experts declare these animals were very large. Very large, indeed! In the accompanying pictures, one can get an idea of the size of these creatures. The portion of the pictured woolly mammoth tusk weighed 110 lbs. and was seven feet long! Not to mention, it was missing as much as a foot or more... and to consider that this animal carried two of these tusks on the front of its face is mind boggling.

The weight of evidence continues to build in favor of a world-wide catastrophic event as a credible answer to questions of how and why our world is shaped the way it is.



And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

—Genesis 6:6-8

Experience has shown that when approaching the indigenous peoples of the north with the Good News of the Gospel, an approach from the evidence of biblical creation and world-wide Noachian flood are fruitful avenues. Another corroborating and collaborating avenue is the evidence found in the First Nation anthropological verbal traditions. Every indigenous people group has a catastrophic flood story. This piece of evidence argues for several important notions. Among them, the idea that all these flood stories have a common Source. Secondly, that all people groups have a common parentage.

Wherever Adventist World Aviation (AWA) does the work of the gospel in the world, it is important to know and understand the traditions and oral history of the people or tribe we are dedicated to reaching. In order to be trusted, there must be a sincere heart for the people being reached. As trust is gained, relationships are developed. Conjoined with the Spirit's presence, the messages of hope and salvation are shared.

Evangelist, Noel Wilton, is shown preaching on the prophecies of Daniel in the hub city of Kotzebue not too long ago. Wilton held a two-week series in the local Episcopal Church. The priest graciously let us do the series in their church without charge and she personally attended each meeting and gave rides to those who needed transportation. Those who attended 10 meetings were given a large family bible. They are pictured on page 24 with Evangelist Noel Wilton and Pastor Jim Kincaid. The Episcopal priest, Mary Norton, is second from left with her husband, Ernie Norton.

"We need to come close to the people by personal effort. If we would give less time to sermonizing and more time to personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant

instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit."

The Ministry of Healing, EG White, pg. 73.

We are truly grateful for our supporters; for their prayers and financial sustenance to keep this great work going in the seasonally frozen north. To set up your regular monthly support for the work in Alaska, go to flyawa.org or call us at 1-888-477-8945.

### **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Jim Kincaid, and his wife, Linda, are your AWA Missionaries stationed at AWA's Alaska Mission Base



# Tu Gota En Su Cubo

Algunos de nosotros podemos preguntarnos sobre el momento oportuno de Dios o qué estará pensando. Podríamos pensar que Dios debería haber hecho esto o aquello hace ya mucho tiempo. A veces se siente como si Dios se interpusiera en nuestro camino, pero luego, de repente, ¡las puertas comienzan a abrirse a la izquierda y a la derecha! Ahí es donde nos encontrábamos cuando finalmente llegamos a Nicaragua. Después de años de intentar ir al campo misionero extranjero, la puerta se abrió de repente. Sentimos como Moisés debió haberse sentido después de cuarenta años de pastorear ovejas y Dios lo llama para sacar a los israelitas de Egipto, un trabajo en el que casi había perdido la esperanza.

Así que aquí estamos, en el noreste de Nicaragua, donde abundan las necesidades físicas y espirituales y parece que todo lo que hacemos es como traer una gota a un balde de necesidad. Volvemos a mirar a Moisés y vemos de dónde viene cuando le dice a Dios que se ha equivocado de persona. "No tengo el talento suficiente," decimos. ¿Y qué le dice Dios a Moisés que haga? Dice que traiga su gota al balde. "Te di esa gota", dice Dios, "no es para que puedas terminar el trabajo tú solo. Sino que para que puedas ver cómo puedo

## Your Drop in His Bucket

#### by Josh & Yosiday Fix

Some of us may wonder about God's timing or what He is doing sometimes. We might think that God should have done this or that long ago. Sometimes it feels like God is standing in our way... then all of a sudden the doors start opening left and right! That's where we found ourselves when we came to Nicaragua. After years of trying to get into a foreign mission field the door all of a sudden swung open! We felt like Moses must have felt after forty years of herding sheep and God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt; a job he'd given up hope on.

So here we are, in northeastern Nicaragua, where physical and spiritual needs abound and it feels like all we bring is a drop to a bucket of need. We look at Moses again and see where he's coming from when he tells God that He's got the wrong guy. "I'm not talented enough," we say. And what does God tell Moses to do? He says to bring your drop to the bucket. "I gave you that drop," says God, "not that you could finish the job all by yourself. But so you can see how I can multiply it." If there's one place God can show you that "without me ye can do nothing," (John 15:5), it's in a place of difficulty, or better yet, impossibility!

Let me not forget to remind you that "if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14). Like any good father, God doesn't put rules into place without multiplicarla." Si hay un lugar donde Dios puede mostrarse que... "sin Mí, nada podéis hacer "(Juan 15: 5), es en el lugar de dificultad, o mejor aún, de imposibilidad!

No me olvides de recordarte que "si pedimos algo conforme a su voluntad, él nos oye" (1 Juan 5:14). Como cualquier buen padre, Dios no establece reglas sin una buena razón. Están ahí para preservar nuestra felicidad y la de los demás. Necesitamos seguir sus reglas y mientras lo hacemos, podemos estar seguros de que Él nos respalda. Ahí es donde entra en juego la fe. En última instancia, sabemos que "El Señor no se demora en sus promesas, como algunos hombres consideran la negligencia; pero es paciente para con nosotros, no queriendo que ninguno perezca, sino que todos procedan al arrepentimiento" (2 Pedro 3: 9). Por eso, al buscar almas, sabemos que tenemos el apoyo de Dios porque es Su voluntad que todos lleguen al arrepentimiento. De modo que, a medida que nos sintonizamos con su voluntad y caminamos en ella, podemos descansar en la seguridad de que "todo el poder me ha sido dado (Jesús) en el cielo y en la tierra," y que Él es todo el volante que guía toda la operación.

Y mientras buscamos hacer la voluntad de Dios en Nicaragua, ser buenos samaritanos con nuestros vecinos y compartir nuestra fe, sé que tenemos la bendición de Dios. Creo que es la voluntad de Dios que ayudemos a las personas a llegar al hospital durante una emergencia médica, por lo que ponemos nuestros esfuerzos para ayudarlos a llegar allí lo más rápido que podemos, ya sea por tierra o por aire. También nos esforzamos por apoyar la obra espiritual de la iglesia aquí y llevar a la gente al Salvador del mundo y dar la buena noticia del pronto regreso de Cristo y desenmascarar los engaños del diablo. Todo esto sabemos que está dentro de esa esfera de la voluntad de Dios.

Así que mientras avanzamos hacia el campo de trabajo donde Dios nos ha llamado, tengamos fe y llevemos nuestra gota al balde con alegría, permaneciendo cada día en Jesús, el mejor Misionero que este mundo haya conocido.

"De ahora en adelante me está guardada una corona de justicia, que el Señor, el juez justo, me dará en aquel día; y no solo a mí, sino también a todos los que aman su venida."

— 2 Timoteo 4:8

a good reason. They are there to preserve our happiness as well as everyone else's. We need to play by His rules and while we do that we can rest assured that He has our back. That's where faith comes into play. We know ultimately that "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). So as we seek souls, we know we have God's support - because it is His will that all come to repentance. So as we're tuned into and walking by His will, we can rest in the assurance that "all power is given unto Me (Jesus) in heaven and in earth," and that He is at the wheel guiding the whole operation.

And so as we seek to do God's will in Nicaragua, to be good samaritans to our neighbors, and to share our faith, I know we have God's blessing. I believe it's God's will for us to help people get to the hospital during a medical emergency, and so we put our efforts to help them get there in a timely manner either by land or by air. Also we strive to support the spiritual work of the church here and lead people to the Savior of the world and give the glad news of Christ's soon return and unmask the deceptions of the devil. These are within that sphere of God's will.

As we go forth to the field of labor where God has called us, and bring our drop to the Bucket cheerfully, each day abiding in Jesus, the best Missionary this world has ever known.

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

-2 Timothy 4:8

### **MEET THE AUTHORS...**



Josh Fix, and his wife, Yosiday, and their children, Caleb and Isaac, are your AWA Missionaries stationed at AWA's Nicaragua Mission Base



# Mom's Awesome Coleslaw

My mom is a phenomenal cook, and this recipe is one of her specialties. It is surprisingly good, and I guarantee cabbage will be a welcome dish at your table.

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> head green or puprle cabbage
- 2 tomatoes

1

- Dash Salt (to taste)
- 1 tbsp. fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 2 big dollops Mayo (Vegenaise)
  - small clove garlic, crushed

#### by Jordana Runne

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Chop the cabbage thinly. If you have a food processor you can use it instead of doing it by hand.
- 2. Wash and dice the tomatoes. Put the veggies in a large bowl.
- 3. Pour in the lemon juice, and put in the crushed garlic.
- 4. Add the salt and mix the salad. Tweak to taste if desired.
- Spoon in the Mayo (we like Vegenaise) into the bowl and lightly toss. Taste one last time (and try not to devour the entire bowl). You may want more lemon juice, salt or mayoFLYAWA.ORG











5

## **TIPS:**

- Our family enjoys this • coleslaw with mashed potatoes and fried eggs.
- You can use it with Sloppy Joes too.

## Enjoy your awesome coleslaw!

## **MEET THE AUTHOR...**



Jordana Runne is the 12-year-old daughter of Caleb and Glenda Runne. The Runne family are Missionaries-in-Training for Guyana.

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Our God is a tender, merciful Father.... He is their [His children's] best friend; and when they worship Him, He expects to be with them, to bless and comfort them, filling their hearts with joy and love.

~~~~~~~

-Steps to Christ, pg. 103

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