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# INSIDE: NOTES FROM THE FIELD 10 ADVENTURE AWAITS 18



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PRESIDENT/CEO: Ric Swaningson president@flyawa.org

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EDITORIAL TEAM: Heather Hill, and AWA Team

**CONTACT:** Send all inquiries or change of address notices to: **Adventist World Aviation** 4421 Airport Drive NW Wilson, NC 27896

#### EIN #38-3242404 • CFC #96724

Phone: 1-888-477-8945 E-mail: info@flyawa.org Website: flyawa.org Facebook.com/flyawa.org www.youtube.com/c/AWASDA

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101-1865 Dilworth Drive (Suite 309) Kelowna, B.C. V1V 9T1 BN #84364 2166 RR0001

#### **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!

# PRESIDENT'S WEATHER REPORT

# Faith is the Victory

As I look back at the nearly 12 years of my presidency of AWA, I am reminded of the day I was called. We had just taken in my mother to help her in her retiring years. My Dad went to sleep in Jesus just a few short years before and she was alone. I had just taken on a responsibility that was going to change my life. Taking care of an aging mother is a privilege but I knew it was going to take extra time and God inspired energy! Then AWA called. Mom was so proud. I, however, was feeling quite inadequate.

I thought and prayed, "God, what have I done to deserve this?" *How could I take this on?* I just committed to taking in my mom. My mom said, "Son, you can do all things through Christ! I know you can do this!" *Ugh*, I sighed. So, I took a deep breath and looked at everything.

I looked at the books and the times we lived in. I wondered how this institution in 2011 would survive. The economy and lack of mission workers to serve had decimated the economic value of AWA. Honestly, my better business side of me said, *RUN! RUN AWAY FROM AWA! -- and don't turn back! This will be your undoing!* But my mom said, "Ric, God is calling you!"

Looking back now I still marvel. If not for you, our donors, our supporting family, *AWA wouldn't exist*. Somehow God, through you, saw fit to pull us through! And we are larger now than ever before. While we still suffer the need for "Harvesters," I am so proud of you and I am so proud of this Godly institution called AWA!

We have brought so much joy to the hurting peoples of this old nasty world because of your prayers, and financial support. Today, we are faced with even more economic upheaval, much more than in 2011; a time of what seemed to be an inevitable end, we instead pulled through.

2011 seems like child's play when compared to 2022. There is a difference. AWA currently is in the black and we are healthy! However, as we begin 2023, I wonder what God has in store for us? Keeping a watchful eye on everything is so important. I find myself cautiously looking down the road for the dangers that face every institution.

There is a difference today because now I have the faith of experience of God's Mighty Hand! I have experienced miracle after miracle during the last 11 years and 6 months. My Faith is strong in Jesus and this institution of His.

Let me tell you about how God provided a much-needed miracle in the form of an engine for our Cessna 182, N9579E. It was supposed to receive a diesel engine conversion, but the manufacturer was unable to press forward, and the FAA would not approve the conversion. The existing engine that sat in the C182 was timed out, it needed a new one. A rebuild would take two years and the cost of \$35,000 had increased to \$50,000. Additionally, the engine needed for the particular C182 we have was hard to find. Then, God gave us a miracle: the exact engine we needed, and freshly overhauled. We negotiated with the seller and agreed on a very low price! He wanted to help our institution and was willing to donate *nearly half* and for only \$25,000 we purchased this fresh engine! GOD IS GOOD!

In the Philippines where great need arose, the Hamombe family, once headed for Guyana, would take up the call to live and serve in Palawan. They had come to the US with the intention of serving in Guyana and were fully dedicated, stopping at nothing, not even a rear-ending by an 18-wheeler at freeway speeds that could have killed them–no matter! They pressed forward, determined to get to the field. So, when the door for the Philippines opened in great urgency, the Hamombes stepped up to fill that need. With the predetermination in their hearts to serve the Lord, it allowed God to work mightily. The heart of a missionary–the heart of Christ–is likened to no other.

As for Guyana, God is already providing a local servant from Nicaragua for the Guyana project in the Hamombes' place, filling gaps and making things whole.

We have had many positive stories of all kinds throughout the years, and I am so proud of what God has done with our mission workers and office staff making it all possible. My Mom was right! We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. However, I'm not alone. Our staff of this office is simply the BEST! Read in this Airways what they are doing! AWA simply has the best of the best in ministry! I am so proud of each of them! They have made the last three years a battle of love and success!! As love conquers all, I am so proud of God's Children! Oh, how He must smile at His creation knowing they are dedicated to His work! They work tirelessly day by day, night by night, and weekend by weekend, serving His people!

Thank you for being a valued Member of this ministry!

Keep looking up,

Pastor Ric Swaningson President / CEO



Pastor RIc with his granddaughter, Emma

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Daniel assists the Philippine team

wash the plane.



# Flight Log

#### by Rebecca Stevenson

#### And so it was:

"Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents."

#### —Numbers 9:17, NKJV

As we are no less spiritual children of Israel *and* missionaries, this passage is, more often than not, a way of life. So many missionaries have experienced this divine cloud phenomenon where they've pitched their tent; then suddenly, God commands them to move and go yonder

to a new land or place of service. But no matter the factors and circumstances, it's seen and known visibly; God is leading–*follow!* 

Our newest missionary family in training, the Hamombes, set out from their home country in Zambia to come to the US and fundraise. Their destination of service would be in Guyana. While encamped here at HQ as they trained and prepared for a record deployment of only six months, extraordinary events began to transpire. Then we saw it. The pillar of cloud was rising and moving, and we all heard God's call.

A month shy of deploying to Guyana, God personally deployed the Hamombes to the Philippines, setting down His pillar of cloud upon the island of Palawan.



Accompanying the Homombes were Ray and Julie Young, the Youngs helping the Hamombes to settle in. Unfortunately, since 2020 the closed-border effect of Covid has slowed the work globally. Still, Ray, our Vice President of Operations, will take the opportunity while in the Philippines, to build new connections and relationships. We pray, God willing, AWA can be a greater blessing in the future.

While we're glad 2020 is behind us, there are still some lasting effects, good and bad. Some effects are an opportunity like the uptick in online sales. We probably all have a favorite or preferred online store, but there's one that helps us spread the Gospel at AWA. On our website, that's flyawa.org, we have a drop-ship store where you can order some basic, but cozy logoed apparel items and shareable promotional items. Just click the blue button that says SHOP and partner with the opportunity to share who AWA is while helping to fund the lifesaving efforts we practice daily.

In fact, now is a wonderful time to be thinking about that perfect year-end gift to God. So many of you, our AWA family, love to bestow gifts in these closing months. The coming of the Lord is soon to take shape before our very eyes. We invite you to be a part of the work through AWA. We thank you all for the contributions you have made this year or will make as this year draws to a close.

"AWA, is there a way that I can have automatic payments come right out of my checking account each month?" Yes, there is! As we have begun using Merchant 1 as a platform for easier payment processing of your donations, we have the option now to set you up for automatic withdrawals directly from your bank account. Call our office between the hours of 8:30 am to 6:30 pm Eastern time, Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 am to 2:30 pm Eastern Time Fridays at 919-938-2920 to get started!

Our bases are becoming more and more active with the Runnes in Nicaragua as well as the Hamombes in the Philippines. We call upon the faithful, mission-hearted co-laborers to help support this Kingdom work. Pray for these families and join hands with the Lord in petition, seeking how He may use you to be a blessing to His ministry. We are 100% funded by you. Thank you for letting God use you in a mighty way in 2022.

## MEET THE AUTHOR...



Rebecca Stevenson is the Executive Administrative Assistant to Pastor Ric. Her husband, Kyle, is the Chief of Maintenance. They, with their daughter, Hadahsa, are stationed at AWA Headquarters in Wilson, NC.



# **Altered Course**

#### by Pumelela Hamombe

After months of preparations for deployment to the mission field, the Lord altered the course of our ship. At short notice, we exercised maximum flexibility trusting in His divine providence. Instead of heading to Guyana, the Lord was now leading us to the Island of Palawan in the Philippines, where we would have to learn a new language and meet His wonderful people. On the 28th of September, Tali, Daniel, and I had our bags packed and ready to continue our journey to the mission field. Jeremiah 1:5, KJV, says, "Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Indeed, the Lord has wonderful plans for us; in the same manner, one who is watering plants eventually gets some water sprinkles, so it has been for us here in the mission field. As God uses us as a channel of blessings to others, we also receive the blessings.



As part of our growth here on the Island of Palawan, Tali has learned how to use the weed eater to level the grass. The trees had grown around our structures, and I had to climb up on the roof to cut down the trees. Then Daniel and I use a tractor to carry the cut trees and heap them in a pile. We worship and serve a God of order, and He desires that our home and surrounding should always be kept clean.

I am learning how to maintain and care for the aircraft under the supervision of Ray Young. We hope to get this aircraft back in the skies to continue the lifesaving missions it is intended to

do. Our aircraft urgently needs a new battery. We also need a newer truck to carry supplies for the mission project to ferry God's children to evangelistic meetings and church services.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you as we continue to allow Him to guide us to be a blessing to others.

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



Pumelela, Tali and Daniel Hamombe is your AWA Mission Family serving at the AWA Philippines - Palawan Mission Project



# Palawan Project: 2 Years Later

## by Julie Young

## "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

-Jeremiah 10:23, KJV

As we prepared to accompany the Hamombe family to Guyana, God had a bigger vision for all of us, and instead, we were called to head to the Philippines.

Because the Hamombes would be staying behind in the Philippines, they needed to take everything they would need during their stay. On check-in, we realized the larger suitcases packed were overweight, and we had to pay a hefty extra luggage fee.

On arrival in New York, we gathered all the luggage at baggage claims and caught an Uber to a hotel to rest till the next flight, 8 hours away.

It's required to be at the airport 4 hours ahead for international flights, so at 9 pm, we headed to the airport.

We showed the required health pass documents and passports, THANKFULLY breezing through

security with no issues. Then, we patiently waited in the departure area till 1:35 am, when we finally boarded Philippine Airlines.

Now the test of endurance started, sitting nine across, in sections of 3; the first flight was 5 hours to Vancouver, BC, Canada, to stop for fuel (yes, back to our beloved Canada). Unfortunately, we could not depart the plane.

The flight was over open water, so we settled into rest through the night. Some slept, watched movies, or listened to music and anticipated the three meals provided during the flight.

Finally, 17 hours later, we landed in Manila, where we waited another 5 hours for our third and final flight, finally landing in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Can you believe we left on a Thursday and landed on a Friday in a different time zone, a day ahead of everyone else with a total of over 24 plus hours of air travel?

It had been two years since Ray and I were last here putting the plane together with the Wilkersons, Meghans, and Kyle Stevenson. This time we met with AWA Philippines staff, Christine and Beachie, and rented a van to take us and our luggage to the base in Sagpangan.

The work started right away. Betchie, Tali, and I cleaned cupboards and rooms, scaring spiders, geckos, and cockroaches away, sweeping up termite waste, then spraying insecticide as a deterrent.

Ray, Pumelela, and visiting mechanic, Krian from Mindanao did an annual on the plane, chased a Toku gecko out of the engine, and cleaned gecko waste from inside and out. The runway grass also needed to be mowed and trees removed so medical aviation flights could soon start.

We were asked to participate in the 2022 Search seminar in the community of Sagpangan. Each night Pumelela picked up and drove two very full pickup loads of kids and adults to the program, a half hour each way. The poor little Nissan truck is in terrible disrepair, and we prayed each trip we would make it safely, and praise the Lord, *it did*.

We have a request as we continue to walk in His direction, helping those in need. Please, your help is needed in support of the Hamombe family and assistance with a newer truck. The airplane will need many barrels of fuel hauled to start our introductory flight training and the first month of service. The fuel cost and a crippled truck will be a leap of faith. By the time we ship fuel over from Manila to Palawan and haul it to the base, we estimate a \$500.00 per barrel cost. One barrel is suitable for 3hrs of flying. We expect our fuel budget will be \$5000.00 per month once we get started. Depending on the critical injury rate, it could be much higher. We know we can save lives, we just need the resources to do it. Please join us in this tremendous undertaking.







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



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



# Notes from the Field

## **A CHAINSAW ACCIDENT**

(Caution: Graphic Content - Reader Discretion Advised)

A family from the next community was robbed while taking an afternoon nap. Their entire kitchen was stolen -- plates, stove, propane gas tank, cell phone, towels, everything. There were rumors about a spell being put on the house to make them sleep, but we suspect their pot of food was drugged when it was cooked outside. When we heard the news, we donated a small oven and gas tank that the mission needed to replace. Very appreciative, Joel came to collect the tank from the mission base. Shortly after leaving on his motorcycle, he called us on the phone. He came upon a gruesome scene. A man and his teenage son were cutting a pine tree for lumber when somehow, the boy's ankle ended up in the path of the chainsaw's teeth. The father showed impressive clarity, acting quickly

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to make a tourniquet out of clothing and tied off the profusely bleeding leg.

Since we have the only 4-wheeled vehicle in the community, we were the boy's best chance to get to the hospital and survive his injury. God's providence was perfectly timed. If we had not answered the Holy Spirit's promptings to help the burglarized family, there would be no one to call for help, and the tragedy would likely have been fatal. When we arrived at the hospital, I asked Lorenzo, the boy's father, if he was all right after passing through such a traumatic experience. He calmly replied that he was only worried that during the hospital stay, he wouldn't be able to feed his son as he had no money. In Nicaragua, healthcare is "free," but you would shudder at the conditions of the hospitals; they are far from sterile, understaffed, and in serious need of maintenance, from the walls and ceilings to



the mattresses. Later I learned that the 200 Cordobas I gave to Lorenzo were used in part to buy the pain medication since the hospital had run out of the "free" medication.

Thankfully, God had also orchestrated for a surgeon to be in town that day to re-attach the blood vessels, nerves, Achilles tendon, and surrounding flesh that the chainsaw had raggedly severed. Days later, when Tony, the injured young man, was released from the hospital, we drove back to town to bring him and his father home. Besides Tony, Lorenzo and his pregnant wife, Reina, have five more children at home. Lorenzo had been out of work for days so the family could add concern for food to their worry about Tony's recovery. As we drove up to the very humble Miskito home and Tony stepped out of the truck supported by his crutches, his younger sisters and brother came running out to hug him, tears of joy in their eyes. The most touching scene was when Tony reunited with his mother on the first flight of stairs; she embraced him with both cries of anxiety and relief that her first-born son had returned to her alive. Glenda introduced herself to Reina, who hugged her tightly, thanking Glenda profusely for helping save her son's life.

## **FAMOUS FAMILY**

Every missionary story I have read has an antagonist, a witchdoctor, an unhappy chief, the superstitions of the natives, and ultimately the devil. Our antagonists are a large family who we will refer to as the "Famous Family." They are famous for resisting, sometimes under threat of violence, all the previous missionaries, and stealing from their own community, using their political power dishonestly. They are rarely confronted by the community for fear of violence. Before we knew of their fame, we had been visiting the elderly matriarch and patriarch because they were both ill. I worked on their physical complaints and Glenda took care of them with natural medicine. Although they always seemed to be seeking a handout, ever ungrateful, it did appear that we were making an impact on them from the kindness we showed.

One day, after returning from Managua to the mission base in La Tronquera, we received shocking news. The Famous Family, in cahoots with the community chief and judge, had secretly tried to sell a parcel of land to a non-Miskito Nicaraguan man. The plot was discovered and exposed. It is illegal to sell Miskito land because it is owned by the entire community, much like a Native American reservation. This has led to massacres on both sides; the Miskitos and the western Nicaraguan buyers. Never had someone tried to sell land in La Tronquera. This caused an uproar in the community and an impromptu council meeting was called.

The Famous Family argued that the land that the mission base is on had been sold, so that gave them the right to sell property if they so choose. The land has only been leant to the mission by its Miskito owner, never has any money been exchanged for purchase or rent. Community leaders in-the-know argued passionately of the good that the mission has done for them in the past, and even in the short period of time our family has been here, in all the situations God has provided for us to make a positive impact. The Famous Family persisted saying, "If we can't sell the land, then the missionaries should leave too!"

Remember Tony, who would have died if we had not taken him to the hospital after being injured by the chainsaw accident? Tony's biological father is one of the Famous Family. Missionaries here in La Tronquera have helped many members of the Famous Family over the years. Despite all expressions of selfless Christian





love demonstrated to them, the Famous Family has maintained a hard heart. Please join us as we love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless them that curse us, and pray for those that spitefully use us. (Luke 6:27)

# THEY NAMED THE BABY...

You may remember that Lorenzo was out of work during Tony's hospital stay for the chainsaw injury. We had a trip planned and needed to hire a nightwatchman while we traveled so we asked Lorenzo, who was grateful for some income.

When we came back from our trip, we went to Lorenzo's home to pay him his wages, and to see how Tony was recovering. Tony was so happy to have visitors spending most of his days in bed, hobbled to the hammock on the porch, and then back to bed each night, bored. As we chatted, Tony's five other siblings giggled and played on and around us. Jordana and Enoch asked him if he would like to learn to play guitar while he was stuck at home recovering. Jordana and Enoch leant Tony a guitar to practice between classes. The kids told us that, after they went to bed, they would hear Lorenzo practicing into the night.



Reina and four more pregnant women all needed to go for regular check-ups at the hospital in the city of Waspan. They had to pay for the bus fare and make the uncomfortable bus ride over the pot-holed road, with a 30-minute walk on each side of the trip. Glenda decided that we would make those prenatal visits part of our ministry. We drove the truck into the community and picked up a full load of happy, pregnant women. We would drop them off at the hospital door first in the morning line and pick them up at noon to bring them home. Eventually, it was time for Reina to give birth. We brought her to the maternity house and Glenda promised to keep an eye on the children left at home. Reina was there for over a week before she had her baby. Meanwhile, Jordana and Enoch visited to play with the children and continue Tony's guitar lessons. Jordana brought their laundry home to be washed. We also hired Lorenzo to cut the new fence posts at the mission base with his chainsaw.

We really felt that God was going to use this family as the key to open the heart of the community to us. When Reina was ready, we picked her up. Traditionally, the Miskito parents wait until sometime after the birth to name their children. In an expression of gratitude for how we had helped them over the weeks, they named the baby... Can you guess? *Caleb*. We are very aware that God orchestrates unusual circumstances to bring His sheep into His fold. We wanted to give an example of how, through your support, inspired by the Holy Spirit, God is working with the Miskito community here in La Tronquera, Nicaragua. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

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



Caleb Runne, his wife, Glenda, and their two children, Jordana and Enoch, are your AWA Mission Family serving at the AWA Nicaragua Mission Project

# **A Heartfelt Appeal**



t is easy to romanticize the life of a missionary. We see pictures of faraway places and think, "Wow, their life looks so good; so full of adventure, so filled with the love of Jesus." But the missionary's life is not always as wonderful as pictures portray. Often, images do not convey just how hard the work life and the personal life of a missionary can be.

My name is Steven Leger. I am a missionary, a disaster response specialist, a videographer, and a producer: my mission field is the United States of America.

*"The United States is a mission field?"* you might ask. The answer is yes. More and more U.S. citizens are rejecting Christ's word, and considering natural and man-made disasters that plague us at ever-increasing rates, this brings opportunity for Jesus to be seen. Being a missionary in the U.S. in the best of times is complex and, many times can be downright dangerous. Kindness may be misconstrued as hostility; a gift often received as an affront. The personal costs to the missionary almost always go unnoticed. In my own life, managing the delicate balance between full-time ministry and supporting my family is a challenge I must constantly lay at the feet of Jesus.

When I pray, I claim the promises of Proverbs 30:7-9, KJV: "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord: or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

#### by Steven Leger

As a Disaster Response Specialist, I must respond to catastrophes imparting the love and grace of Christ Jesus no matter the type of crisis. But there are times it is impossible to deploy due to budgetary constraints. Deployment to a single disaster area can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars per day. This cost includes purchasing necessary equipment and sustaining family members that do not deploy. As a missionary, I rely on God's provisions and the donations of my partners in Christ. The Lord recently enabled me to acquire a Search and Rescue (SAR) dog. Through the continued support of my partners in Christ who lovingly give, I can do more to respond within "The Golden Hour," a few moments after an event when the need for physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aid is at its highest.

Even in media production, some needs must be filled. I believe it is essential to have high-quality equipment to capture pivotal moments that move hearts and minds to action. Yet often, I must capture these moments with my personal phone and computer. A professional camera and a laptop for onsite production are just a couple of items necessary to record and share the knowledge of what galvanized support can achieve. To keep the mission going, I will be able to purchase and maintain the equipment required to stay relevant in my needs-based ministry and tend to my own family's needs.

I am looking for mission partners willing to make a pledge between themselves and God, that they desire to lend their resources to this mission. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:5, KJV, "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." Paul is writing about the churches in Macedonia who, as an example, dedicated themselves to God first and then to the ministry, even beyond their ability and with joy. I give my time and resources to God's work because He has called me to do so. Has he been calling you too?

**MEET THE AUTHOR...** 



Steven Leger works with AWA's Disaster Response and is stationed at AWA Headquarters in Wilson, NC



# **Good Things Come**

# Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

#### —Psalm 27:14, KJV

God is always at work around us and has a mission to reconcile all mankind to Himself through His son Jesus. As we draw closer to Him during trials or periods of long waiting, we find our character changing and our ability to endure easier. Our Cessna 182 based here at the AWA Midwest has undergone a longer than expected annual inspection. We discovered the need to replace 3 cylinders with low compression.

For pilots that are eager to fly, the long wait is agonizing as beautiful flying weather comes and goes. Our AWA Midwest Chief Pilot and resident A&P, Joe Berti, and I were blessed with many opportunities to seek wisdom and patience from the Lord as we faced one delay after another. Finally, the day came on October 24th when the weather



was nearly perfect and mine and Joe's schedule coincided. Our mission was to complete the Continental breakin procedures for the newly installed

#### by Bruce Wilkerson

cylinders. The runup of 64X was flawless, the engine roared and sounded great! As we gently accelerated down runway 31 at St. Louis Metro East (IL48) with ease, 64X rotated and began her gradual climb out to our planned altitude of 3500 feet. Joe and I sighed and "high fived" each other grinning from ear to ear. We were flying again! We praise God for His mercy and grace! In life sometimes we find ourselves waiting or experiencing setbacks for some unknown reasons. I submit that these are opportunities for us to strengthen our faith, obedience, and trust in the Lord.

In Isaiah 40:31, KJV, the prophet tells us, "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, they shall walk and not faint.

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



Bruce Wilkerson is AWA's Vice President of Development and Midwest Project Manager. He and his wife, Monique, are currently stationed at the AWA Midwest in Belleville, Illinois.

# **Bite-Sized Donations**

Bite sized donations help the respective projects operate more efficiently and makes the work easier for the missionaries. You may contribute for the entire amount or join others in meeting the needed funds. Any amount towards the acquisition of needed items is greatly appreciated.



# **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Professional Camera: \$1,700 • Laptop: \$1,200



# \$1,700 · \$1,200



# GUYANA

Car Battery: \$400 • Car Tires \$500







## MAINTENANCE

Cessna 172 Starter: **\$1,000** IA (Inspector Authority) 2-year subscription: **\$912** Monthly Maintenance Tracking Software: **\$100/month, \$1200/year** 

# \$1,000 · \$912 · \$100 · \$1,200

# **MIDWEST**



Replace lens on KX155 NAV/COM radio: \$950



# **\$950**



## NICARAGUA

Airplane Battery: \$500 Submersible Water Pump: \$250 Miskito Hymnals: 500 @ \$8.00 each = \$4,000



# \$500 · \$250 · \$4,000



Aircraft Battery: \$500

**PHILIPPINES** 

Truck: \$20,000

Barrel of Aviation Gas: \$500

10 Barrels of Aviation Gas (1 month supply): \$5000

# \$500 · \$20,000 · \$500 · \$5,000











# **Adventure Awaits!**

#### by Monique Wilkerson

Adventist World Aviation has many opportunities available if you are interested in serving as a missionary abroad. One of our greatest needs is in Guyana, South America. Our excellent project located in the Barima-Waini Region has loving people and is a great place to serve. Our AWA project has been active there since 2007. We seek individuals or families with willing hearts who sense God is calling them to live abroad and serve in a remote environment providing Hope through a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Experience or a desire to serve in an aviation setting is preferred. AWA has a need for pilots and aircraft mechanics, but those qualifications are not necessary to serve as a missionary in a non-flying role with AWA.

If you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit to serve as a missionary in a jungle environment, don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Let us pray together and see if God is leading you to our dear home of nearly five years, where AWA built a learning center with living quarters and a 50' x 100' aircraft hangar. In addition, an 8-passenger boat with a 115hp motor was donated by generous supporters to use for outreach to the river communities. Perhaps Guyana is the right place for you; if it is, adventure awaits you!











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



Monique Wilkerson is AWA's Guyana Project Manager currently stationed at the AWA Midwest in Belleville, Illinois.



## **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

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# Letting Go and Letting God

#### by Julie Young

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

—Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

On August 14, 2022, Pastor Ric Swaningson and us, Ray and Julie Young, answered the call from Anne of Lifeline Pilots to fly an Angelwings Flight. Lifeline coordinates free air transportation, through volunteer pilots, for passengers with medical or humanitarian needs far from home.

Our portion of the flight was from Wilson, NC, and took 5.2 hours up in IFR cloudy conditions with two

pilots. Stuart of Ankeny, Iowa, flew Michelle, our medical patient, down from Iowa, which was the first leg of her very long day. After that, we all converged in Danville, Illinois, and from there, AWA flew the last 4.6-hour leg of her journey back to Duke University in Durham, NC.

Michelle is a financial analyst, wife, and mother of two children, with a daughter, 10, and a son, 8. In 2016 Michelle was diagnosed with breast cancer and began her treatments of surgical, chemo, radiation, and pharmaceutical blockers that would take all her courage and strength.

Michelle has support from her family and friends as she navigates her care. Not only has she been able to continue to work and be the strong mother that was always her heart's desire, but she has also become a positive mentor for other women experiencing the overwhelming information that comes with the disease.



Michelle volunteers for Can Do Cancer as a Patient Partner providing dinners on chemotherapy days, house cleaning, and motivational support information via websites to improve and enhance the lives of other patients in her area.

In 2020 her cancer metastasized, and further treatment was needed. Michelle is a resilient woman, but we all need help when our spirits are low. Recently she reached out in faith at her lowest moment. Help started to arrive in the most unexpected way!

Her husband shared with his boss and a coworker how overwhelmed she was with navigating the internet and medical system. She was trying to find the best new care options for treatments she desperately needed as her cancer had returned.

This coworker knew of a Lutheran Minister on the Board of Health at Duke University. This is a private research University in Durham, NC. Via email, Michelle reached out to him. With his capabilities as a board member, he can recommend new patients, like Michelle, for appointments at Duke.

A consultation with the Head of Oncology was set up to review her past treatments. This flight was to get her to that necessary appointment and begin the next chapter of treatments.

Michelle has stepped out in her faith, after calling out, "I need help." In fact, when we first met with Michelle in the Dansville Airport, she leaned over and said, "I know Who is leading me and why this is all happening, but it is all happening so fast. When I saw the yellow and blue plane, I finally realized this was meant to be. I am a graduate of Michigan State University, and their team colors are the same as the AWA plane, yellow and blue."

We are all God's angels in this journey, watching over Michelle, and she is learning to let strangers take control of her future health and care.

We are grateful to have met her and will fly her anytime she needs Angelwings to carry her.

We promised to pray for her. If you could take a moment to ask our Father to show His great love and mercy toward her, we would greatly appreciate it.



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



# **Plane and Simple**

#### by Kyle Stevenson

Guyana has been one of the longest-standing mission projects AWA has had since its inception in 1995. So many stories have come out of Guyana, and so many lives have been saved. From snake bites, to pregnancy complications, broken bones and spines, and so much more, our aircraft at the base are the lifesaving tools we use to make a difference in the lives of the Guyanese locals.

In 2019 as missionaries began to transition out, we had no idea what was lurking around the cornerinternational travel, bringing in new missionaries, and presenting at churches at the mercy of an iron-toothed monster called Covid. 2020 started seemingly okay; by the end of February, borders were closing and closed. You may remember my trip to the Philippines back in February 2020 to put N81708 back together. When I was done with that trip, I would have taken another trip to Guyana. I was narrowly able to leave Manila as only a few days later, all flights out of Manila were stopped to places like the US. Everything shut down.

Meanwhile, the aircraft in Guyana were to receive much-needed attention. They needed new propellers, annuals, and other care, but the door was shut and would remain shut for two years.

Guyana's borders were slow to open, with many restrictions embedded. For example, only certain

people could enter, and those that would need vaccine proof. But now, the tight restrictions have lifted, and we can tend to what we had planned on doing back in mid-March 2020.

N8838X, one of our Pathfinder planes, and N82HS in Guyana will receive the long-awaited maintenance. Myself, as our Chief of Aircraft Maintenance, and Bruce Wilkerson, Vice President of Project Development, will be going with a small crew to bring a plane and "simple" revival to the base and the aircraft. We will also need to get one of the aircraft back into the US to HQ for additional maintenance that can only be done at our hangar in Wilson, NC.

Last year we were able to send a prop to Guyana with the hopes I would have been able to get there before now. It will be installed on one of the aircraft. We need many things for this project, including another propeller for the second plane.

While a two-year standby has not been ideal, this project is special and needs the uplifting of the saints right now. This entire project will be receiving maintenance. The aircraft will undoubtedly need some TLC but likewise, the base, our assets, and the locals. Some challenges present themselves as there is a need to bring various tools and potentially purchase some





in the country. Electrical and aircraft tools are needed, and the question of how to get it all there. One person can only take so much.

A barrel will be shipped ahead of time with as much as can fit inside: tools, parts, and supplies. There are unknowns to all this. But, with a great team from AWA and with the uplifting of the saints like yourselves, breath will be successfully breathed back into this project as it was intended.

If you would like to help with this project and its maintenance, and support a revival in Guyana, there are ways you can help. First, you can call our office at 919-938-2920 to make donations and set up monthly donations. If you would like to have a monthly bank draft, send us a voided check to 4421 Airport Drive NW, Wilson, NC 27896, or email our donations department at donations@flyawa.org with Monthly Draft in the subject line (project name optional). Let us know the amount and the date for drafting each month. Thank you for your support of the work we're doing in Guyana!

**MEET THE AUTHOR...** 



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

# ¿De qué lado está Dios?

Hoy vivimos en un mundo de extremos y es difícil encontrar una opinión equilibrada, libre de prejuicios y que revele la verdad sobre un tema determinado.

Muchos factores entran en juego cuando elaboramos nuestra opinión para tomar una decisión, por ejemplo, las influencias de nuestra familia, amigos y compañeros de trabajo, el lugar donde crecimos, tradiciones de nuestra cultura y potencialmente nuestro modo de ser.

Podemos seguir y seguir la lista, pero en última instancia, hay muchas cosas que nos impiden afirmar la verdad si somos completamente honestos. Todos nos enfrentamos a uno de esos demonios cuando tomamos decisiones difíciles. Hablando de demonios, se me olvido reconocer a los ángeles caídos que arrojan ideas a nuestra mente afectando también nuestro punto de vista.

Entonces, ¿qué se supone que debemos hacer? Pareciera ser que estamos peleando una batalla abrumadora y se torna hasta en contra de nosotros mismos, de tal manera que nos desanima de solo pensar en ello.

# God's Side of the Issue

#### by Josh and Yosi Fix

Today we live in a world of extremes. It's hard to find a balanced opinion free of bias and that takes into account all the revealed truth on a given topic. Many factors come into play when we decide on where we stand on a given issue. Family, friends, and coworkers and the places where we grew up can have an influence, as well as the traditions of our given culture. Our character can also come into play. We sometimes can be stubborn, refusing to admit we're wrong or unwilling to make the sacrifice if we agree to certain things. Also, we can just be flat out deceived.

Ultimately there's plenty to keep us from standing on truth if we're completely honest. We are all faced with one of these demons when we're making the hard decisions. Speaking of demons, let's not forget about those fallen angels out there that throw ideas into our heads that we must reject and deflect like fiery darts.

So, what's a guy or gal supposed to do? It seems we're fighting an overwhelming battle with odds stacked against us that it crushes us just to think about it, let alone fight this battle.

Now that we're depressed just a little, just like a good salesman, let me give you the solution--the Holy Spirit and the Bible. The Spirit is to guide us "into all truth" (John 16:13), and God's word acts as a light to guide our steps (Psalms 119:105). Now these are just a few ways that God leads, but they are the main ones for us as individuals. And it's via Holy Spirit inspired scripture that I bring to you a thought that might come across as divisive, but I believe is balanced truth. In Revelation, we're told about a situation that most of us are aware of; Revelation 13 starting at verse 11. In it

Ahora se siente que no hay escape ¿verdad? Como buen vendedor, déjeme darle la solución: el Espíritu Santo y la Biblia. El Espíritu es para guiarnos "a toda verdad" (Juan 16:13) y la palabra de Dios actúa como "lampara a mis pies y lumbrera en mi camino" (Salmos 119:105). Estas dos soluciones son las que Dios utiliza principalmente. Y es a través de las Escrituras inspiradas por el Espíritu Santo que les traigo un pensamiento que puede parecer radical, pero creo que en verdad es muy equilibrado. Veamos en el libro profético de Apocalipsis capítulo 13. A partir del versículo 11, vemos que nos enfrentaremos a un problema religioso. Una cuestión de adoración. Habrá engaños, milagros y se usará la fuerza. No me alcanzaría el tiempo para explicar todos los símbolos usados en estos textos, pero este tema ha sido un tema de discusión y enseñado por los adventistas desde hace 170 años. Lo más aterrador es que a medida que pasa el tiempo y los eventos mencionados en la Biblia se acercan, el diablo es diligente en hacer lo mejor posible para engañar.

Vemos en el capítulo 13 que se menciona la "imagen de la bestia". Esta bestia es la unión de la iglesia con el estado. En el libro El conflicto de los siglos dice que "para que los Estados Unidos formen una imagen de la bestia, el poder religioso debe controlar al gobierno civil de tal manera que la autoridad del estado también será empleada por la iglesia para lograr sus propios fines". CS 443.2.

Se está empezando a ver más y más esto en las noticias y esto hace a su vez que crezca más el deseo de llevar el país de vuelta a Dios. No tengo tiempo para repasar todos los titulares de las noticias, pero puedo orientarlo en una dirección para que haga su propia investigación. Recomiendo que lea el libro "El conflicto de los siglos" si aún no lo ha hecho. Especialmente la última mitad del libro que habla de las profecías sobre el fin de los tiempos.

Veo un esfuerzo en el mundo para poner a las personas en contra de otros y es una tentación adoptar una posición y no querer cambiarla. No me malinterpretes, hay un tiempo y un lugar para eso. Mi deseo hoy es que medites en esto y escojas estar del lado de Dios! we see we will be faced with a religious issue; an issue of worship. There will be deceptions, miracles, and force will be used. This subject matter has been a topic of discussion and has been taught for over 170 years by Adventists. The scary thing I see is that as we near the event, with the very things we've looked for to come, the devil is bringing his "A" game with genius deceptions.

We see in Revelation that there will be an "image of the beast". This beast is the one spoken of at the beginning of chapter 13. This beast represents a union of church and state. So, to see an image of this beast would constitute a renewal of the union between church and state. Consider this thought from one of my favorite books, *The Great Controversy:* "In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends." GC 443.2.

There is a lot in the news to show this is starting to happen. I believe we shouldn't be binding ourselves to political parties, following wherever our chosen political party leads, but we should be followers of Jesus and lovers of all people. The bait is set; and as this is happening you are hearing more and more of a cry for the removal of the separation of church and state. The statements are bold and the cry of bringing the country back to God is swelling. I don't have time to go over all the news headlines, but I can point you in a direction to do your own research. Read *The Great Controversy* if you haven't already, especially the last half of the book which talks about the prophecies about the end of time.

I see an effort in the world to put people against each other and it's a temptation to adopt a position and dig in your heels. Don't get me wrong, there is a time and a place for that. Just be sure of the side you're fighting on. They can be right on some issues but heading for the precipice in others. It's high time to be on God's side!

MEET THE AUTHORS...

Josh Fix, and his wife, Yosiday, and their children, Caleb and Isaac, are Missionaries-in-Training for Nicaragua.

# Winter is Here!

In Alaska, every summer seems shorter than the last. All of us Alaskans have a priority list of goals to be achieved by summer's end. Completing these once the snow comes and the ground gets frozen hard is impossible.

This reminds me of the Apostle Paul's plea to his friend, travel companion, and trainee, Timothy. In 2 Timothy verses 9, 13, and verse 21 Paul expresses his heart plea that Timothy would come soon, that he would come before winter. We are not told in Scripture how Timothy responded to Paul's plea. We would like to think that he quickly got ready and boarded ship west before shipping was laid up for the winter; that Timothy gathered up the cloak and parchments Paul urgently asked for.

#### by Jim Kincaid

Some things if not done before winter will never be done. To quote a thought from Clarence Macartney's famous sermon, "Once spring arrives the graves of our former opportunities will present themselves. A letter sent too late, the sentiments of the heart left unsaid, a phone message unreturned, a habit left unconquered."

Each fall, I think of the 225+ native villages of Alaska. As the snow creeps down the mountains, I wonder how long before the light of God's truth will reach all the places where God's angels are already working. Now is not the time to pull back from prayer, funding support, or the faithfulness that has marked our course till now.

Thank you to all of you who are faithfully supporting us through your prayers and resources.

Those who feel impressed to support the development of more radio stations among the many villages of Alaska, please contact the AWA office at 919-938-2920.

(Pictured is the village of Shungnak)

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## MEET THE AUTHOR...



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

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# **Charitable Giving in Tough Times**

#### by Thomas Hinrichs

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

*—2 Corinthians 9:6-7, ESV* 



Let's face it, 2022 has been a tough financial year for most of us. Our investments are down, and inflation is the highest in decades. You may wonder if these conditions should change your thinking about charitable giving. In

many ways, the answer is no. On average, Americans give as generously in bad times as they do in good times. However, certain economic situations do and should have an impact on what type of giving works best for the donor.

A great example would be the gifting or selling of appreciated security assets. When economic conditions are favorable, a common gifting strategy is to donate appreciated assets directly to charities, as opposed to selling the asset to donate the proceeds to the charity. This allows the donor to avoid taxes on capital gains while still providing the donor with a charitable deduction. Conversely, when the economy is struggling, many investors barely have some, if any, appreciated assets remaining in their investment portfolios. What are the options? Most are advised to sell their now deprecated securities to carry the loss forward and offset future capital gains taxes. You can then

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



Thomas Hinrichs is the AWA Comptroller. He is stationed at AWA Headquarters in Wilson, NC. gift the proceeds to a charity. In both situations, a donation is made, but the process changes based on the current state of the economy.

Here is another example: When the economy is firing on all cylinders, people are more likely to donate large lifetime gifts to charities. Conversely, in economic downturns, folks tend to hold onto their assets and instead leave bequests to charities in their will.

AWA recently received a substantial estate gift from a donor that wishes to remain anonymous. Those funds were instrumental in providing AWA with the opportunity to deploy a missionary family to the Philippines well ahead of schedule. In addition, it allowed them to make an immediate impact.

There is never a bad time to give, and as we reflect on 2022 and hope for a brighter future, please consider donating. \$365 is the average cost for our medevac flights. Every little bit helps; remember, saving a life only takes a dollar a day.

"For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord."

As always, please consult with a tax advisor before engaging in any transactions. 2 Corinthians 8:3 (NASB)

As we close here and the holidays come full swing for 2022, I'm excited to announce that AWA is now accepting donations via automatic checking account withdrawals. If interested, please call our office at 919-938-AWA0 (2920) for more information.



# **Curried Chickpeas!**

## Serves 4

This is a meal we often enjoy here in La Tronquera, where the coconut palms grow in abundance. I hope you got to try making the coconut milk from the last recipe, because you can put it to work in this savory curry!

## **INGREDIENTS:**

6	cups	Cooked Rice
4	cups	Dried Chickpeas
4	cups	Unsweetened Coconut Milk
4	cups	Water
2	tbsp.	Curry Powder
		Salt to taste
2	tbsp.	Olive Oil
		Fresh basil for
		garnishing

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. In a pressure cooker (instant pot works nicely too), put the chickpeas, coconut milk, water, curry powder, and salt.
- 2. Cook for 12 mins or until soft and creamy.
- Once the chickpeas are cooked, add 1 tbsp. of olive oil. Then, warm the rice with the rest of the olive oil.
- 4. Serve the rice and then add the chickpeas on top. Garnish the curry with basil leaves.

## TIPS:

- This recipe is a blank canvas for your imagination. You can add vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet peas, potatoes, and/or onions to take it to another level!
- I learned that the olive oil is eaten raw rather than cooked with the food to preserve the nutritional value. It also enhances the flavor more! If you'd like, add more at the end.

## by Jordana Runne

Curried chickpeas with rice are great served warm on cold, rainy days when you feel like you want to warm up. You can play with seasonings, such as adding a little kick with cayenne pepper, putting in a dollop of pesto, or some vegan cheese. Yogurt in this dish is good too, introducing a Middle Eastern flair.

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

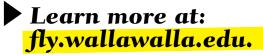


Jordana Runne is the 13-year-old daughter of Caleb and Glenda Runne. The Runne family are Missionaries to Nicaragua.

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