



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

Airways

1ST QUARTER 2023

SPECIAL FEATURE:
ANSWERING
THE CALL 18



INSIDE:
THE SHAKING 6
JUST A MECHANIC... 24



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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 missionary-sending 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

Seeking Jesus, Finding Hope

One of the most talked about topics in our current day and age is whether or not we live in troubled times. The Bible is often a great source of insight and answers to this question, as many passages discuss the signs of the times.

Matthew 24, 2 Timothy 3, and Romans, chapters 1-3, all include key passages that discuss the signs of the end times, so it's no wonder many people turn to these chapters for insight. Matthew 24:6-7 says, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." This verse speaks to the idea that we should not be troubled by the signs of the times but rather focus on the end goal.

Romans 1 and 2 clearly demonstrate that sin is popular, and the Bible supports this by saying that we will be accused of the very sins others commit. We find that in Romans 1:32, "who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Because the mind of an evil person is so polluted, they imagine that you think the same way they do. And so it goes.

We can see this come to fruition in many forms, from political and social issues to the way we interact with each other on an individual level. For example, it's not uncommon for someone to accuse another of the same action they themselves are guilty of. This behavior can manifest itself in various ways, such as double standards, hypocrisy, and even gaslighting. While these behaviors do cause harm, it's important to remember that they are a reflection of those sins and that we must strive to be more conscious of our actions if we want to see real change. We need to apply Matthew 5:44 to pray for those who persecute us.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13, Paul speaks of difficult times and the people who will be living in them. He talks about how "evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." This is a reminder that, although it may seem like the world is in darkness, we should remain hopeful and keep believing that God will provide a way out.

Finally, Romans 3:10-12 speaks of the law and how it applies to all people, regardless of their faith. It reads, "There is none righteous, no not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God.

They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no not one.” This passage reminds us that we are all sinners and that while we live in troubled times, God still loves us and will bring us through. But this does not mean we are without hope.

By looking to the Bible for guidance, we can stay hopeful and trust that God will provide a way out of the darkness.

The Bible teaches us in Luke 21:29-31 that we can use the seasons as a reminder that Jesus is just around the corner. It will soon be springtime, and that means more sunshine. First, the sowing season, and then the harvest season is soon to follow!

At AWA/Wings 4 Humanity, we strive to bring sunshine into people’s lives through our various support. However, we can only do this with donors’ generous help. Consider making a monthly donation to AWA/Wings 4 Humanity. Your support will help us continue to bring sunshine to people’s lives and bring them hope.

When you donate to AWA /Wings 4 Humanity, your contributions go directly toward funding our work, including humanitarian flights. Every donation, no matter how small, helps us to provide the necessary resources and support for aid workers and those in need. We work with trusted partners and organizations to ensure that your contribution is used in the most efficient way to support these humanitarian efforts.

We are committed to making a difference in the world. Your donations help us to do that. We thank you for your generosity and your commitment to the cause. If you have any questions or want to learn more about our program, please do not hesitate to contact us. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for being a valued Member of this ministry!

Keep looking up,

Pastor Ric Swaningson
President / CEO



Pastor Ric with his granddaughter, Emma

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| HEADQUARTERS | 4 |
| The Flight Log | |
| NICARAGUA | 6 |
| The Shaking | |
| CANADA | 8 |
| He Never Changes! | |
| CANADA | 10 |
| The Ontario Conference | |
| PHILIPPINES | 11 |
| A Changing World, A Never-Changing God | |
| PHILIPPINES | 12 |
| Jumper Cables | |
| RECIPE | 13 |
| Honey Golden Oat Granola | |
| PHILIPPINES | 14 |
| Bats | |
| BITE SIZE DONATIONS | 16 |
| How to Help God’s Work | |
| FEATURE | 18 |
| Answering the Call | |
| GUYANA | 20 |
| What a Great Influence | |
| DISASTER RELIEF | 22 |
| Project Launch | |
| MAINTENANCE | 24 |
| Just A Mechanic... | |
| DEVOTIONAL | 26 |
| Rios en el Desierto Rivers in the Desert | |
| ALASKA | 28 |
| A Changing Mission Context, An Unchanging God | |

ABOUT THE COVER:

A Guyanese family with a mother holding a *Desire of Ages* book. This family received clothes from AWA/Wings For Humanity.



Flight Log

by Rebecca Stevenson

The world we live in is nothing short of a big mess that daily we are trying to sort out. Truth be told, we will never be able to sort it out, but we serve a pretty big God who can, and He never changes. The world has drastically changed, but God has not; His message, the Word, “is able to save your souls.” James 1:21 No one ever thought in 2020 that the world would change so much overnight, but it did. It shut us out for two years from projects that either A.) still needed further attention or B.) were in line waiting to have attention paid.

One of those projects is Guyana. In 2020, Covid struck about the end of February, and the world came to a screeching halt. Guyana was scheduled for a visit in March, but that ceased to happen. For two years we’ve

been locked out because of Covid border restrictions and requirements, that is, up until the end of this last year. A skilled and professional team of AWA’s finest was able to visit the base between Thanksgiving and Christmas. With boots on the ground to assess the needs and condition of everything, our hearts are heavy as much refurbishment is needed for both living quarters, mission base property, and assets, including vehicles and aircraft. Covid has taken its toll for sure, but we are hopeful. When the whole church is packed on a Sabbath morning in Guyana for the first time in two years because missionaries are back in town, it says our presence makes a HUGE difference. “Feed My sheep,” Jesus said. Indeed, His children are hungry.



We need your support now more than ever to get Guyana running well again. The aircraft need much love and work; one of them, N82HS, has a seized engine and needs new cylinders. This base is a gem in the eye of the local people. To have the church so packed full of people when they realized missionaries were back in town, tells me personally, that what we do matters, our presence is wanted, and our participation is coveted. Help us revive Guyana this year.

Pray the Lord of Harvest that He sends a family of His choice to come and serve long-term in Guyana. We prayed once before for a special mission family and He hand-chose the Runne family, placing them in Nicaragua. This is such a blessing because God worked extraordinary miracles for the family to be the most efficient they could be in country. Caleb's mother is originally from Nicaragua, so he was able to apply for his citizenship. Once it was granted, he applied for citizenship for the children, Enoch and Jordana. Miraculously, the process, while tedious, went through relatively quickly and easily. Glenda had no advantage, however. To acquire permanent residency as a non-Nicaragua resident is next to impossible. All of the documentation required is, as Glenda explained, "absolutely ridiculous."

At the speed of government there in Nicaragua, you wait and wait, because the longer you wait, the more money they make you pay. They are in no rush, especially if the individual applying is not a fellow Nicaraguan. But God is not bound by the foolishness

of man; He works according to His own time and ways. In only 7 months, the whole family was granted their necessary documents! Even the locals were incredulous at the government's efficiency. The Runne's are convicted that God desired to put them to work for Him in Nicaragua. God continues to work miracles in and through them, opening many doors to share the gospel.

So in our prayers for a family, preferably two families, for Guyana, we are confident that God will provide our needs in an extraordinary way. If you'd like to be a blessing to these projects both in Guyana and Nicaragua, call us at 919-938-2920 to see how you can be involved or even make a donation. You can also visit us at flyawa.org or mail us at 4421 Airport Dr. NW, Wilson, NC 27896.

Thank you for being on this journey with us!

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.



The Shaking

by Caleb Runne

God is faithful, even though we can see that things are changing, shaking, not only in the world at large, but even as intimate as in the church and with family and friends.

About three months ago, we were shocked to discover that the head elder of our church and his wife, the treasurer, had been helping themselves to the church offerings and lying to the congregation and pastor about it. We found ourselves in a very difficult position. Thankfully, the Holy Scripture has guidance for situations like these.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.” - Matthew 18:15-17

I visited the elder alone, we’ll call him Brother J, and I tried to gently reason with him, but he got defensive and left me alone outside his home. The next day we received news of false and disparaging rumors about me being spread to the church, community at large, even reaching to the staff at AWA. I decided it would be safer to bring another church member to accompany me to visit Brother J again to try to make an appeal to his better judgement. He allowed us to sit on his porch, but it didn’t take long before he unwittingly revealed that he had also “borrowed” building materials from the church that were to be used for a new sanctuary, to build a bathroom in his home. Things spiraled downward after that and he again left us alone outside, angrily going into his home. I explained the situation to the pastor, and we arranged a meeting together with him and two elders of the sister church in the neighboring community. The meeting started out tense, but the pastor and elders were gentle in their pleading, quoting scripture and praying earnestly. I felt an urge to make the first step toward reconciliation, apologizing for what may have offended Brother J. His face



softened and he said he wanted forgiveness too. The meeting ended in hugs and tears and prayers of thanks, a miracle.

Unfortunately, the Accuser of the brethren, a.k.a. Satan, wasn't finished. After having missed 3 Sabbaths in a row, Brother J returned to church on what should have been a joyful day. We had communion service, his newborn baby daughter was to be dedicated, and his eight-year-old daughter was to be baptized along with two other boys. The battle for his heart was visible on his face as the service progressed. Brother J left twice, the second time he never came back, missing the special events entirely. Although it was painful for all involved, in time, we could see where God would be glorified. I believe that Brother J didn't realize how he was being used to stifle the growth of the other members of our small congregation.

With his absence, much growth has happened in the church. The members, old and new, are participating, reading their Bibles, engaging in the service, taking roles of responsibility, and testing God in the faithful giving of their tithes and offerings. To God be the glory!

Please join us in praying for Brother J and his family to soften their hearts into repentance and reconciliation. This story represents something we are told will happen as we get closer to Jesus' eminent return, a shaking. People who seem like pillars of the faith will become the gospel's greatest enemies, and others who seem uninterested will come into the church by powerful testimony. We also pray for you and ourselves as the trials that will surely come test us to the core, that by God's grace we may endure to the end, and be saved.

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of



hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts." - Haggai 2:6-9

Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. - Hebrews 12:27-29

MEET THE AUTHOR...



Caleb Runne, his wife, Glenda, and their two children, Jordana and Enoch, are Missionaries to Nicaragua.



He Never Changes!

by Julie Young

Jesus Christ the same yesterday,
and today, and forever.

—Hebrews 13:8

In December 2022, our site visit in Palawan, Philippines, came to an end. We flew 11 plus hours to come back to Canada for the next site visit, Northern Ontario Project.

The evening we landed, there was a severe winter storm grounding all flights in and out of the Vancouver Airport. We were informed that, along with many other planes lined up on the tarmac, we would have to wait our turn to dock.

We knew that we would not make our connecting flight to Kelowna. We waited 5 extra hours on the plane with flight fatigue, claustrophobia, crying

young ones and hunger beginning to take an emotional toll.

Eventually, it was announced we could dock, but on docking, there was a problem with the door and there was a shortage of ground crew to fix it.

Thankfully, within a half hour, we departed the plane to clear customs and claim our luggage.

Along with hundreds of other stranded passengers, we waited, surrounded by stacks of unclaimed luggage. The conveyors were running sporadically and eventually stopped. Again it was announced of a delay due to staff shortage. Overtime staff were doing their best to offload luggage from all flights, and everyone would have to wait or abandon their luggage and claim it later.



We waited another 4 hours, chatting with other stranded passengers, sharing our experiences with travel and the opportunity to share about AWA. From those conversations, many people checked out AWA on the internet, and a few even donated.

With no available hotels, we decided to spend the night in the airport. Wandering the terminal, we looked for somewhere to rest for a few hours. We witnessed many people sleeping on the hard tiles of the floor. By chance, I spotted a cart with 2 airline pillows and blankets and grabbed them. We eventually found a carpeted spot on the second floor by a glass mezzanine area. We were able to rest while we waited to rebook, but by viewing the lineups below us, we soon realized that the lines to rebook were long.

After trying to book online with no conclusion other than we were stranded, Ray had the epiphany to hire an Uber to drive to Kelowna.

After several calls, we found one with snow tires, only able to take us to Abbotsford. With a quick call to our son Brad, he was able to drive his 4x4 truck over the Coquihalla from Kelowna to meet us and transport us safely home, where we learned that the highway had closed behind us.

We left for the Northern Ontario Project after two days at home. Our trip took us through Rogers Pass and a stop in Lacombe, AB, to visit family. Again we found out the highway had closed behind us.

With better weather ahead, we drove to Winnipeg, meeting with Bryan, and then to

Dryden, Ontario. We met with Northern Youth Aviation who we signed a year lease for a heated hangar to store the Cessna 206, which is now closer to available pilots and Sioux Lookout.

Heading up to Sioux Lookout for Sabbath, we joined the Sioux Lookout church congregation for our first of 2023 communion service. We give thanks to the Ontario Conference, President Mansfield Edwards, Eldor Lloyd Douglas, and Pastor Ray Davis, and the local church community for their commitment to the project. Currently, there is flight activity being organized to deliver clothing and supplies as weather permits.

The goals of the project have not changed; it still has all the elements of success. Anything is possible with God's steady hand in 2023.

Pray, Care, Share, the Love God has given you this year.

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.



Canada: The Ontario Conference

by Mansfield Edwards

AWA or Adventist World Aviation/Wings 4 Humanity is giving back to the Indigenous people by helping to provide them with food, clothing, and toys for the children appropriate for the winter. Established in 1993, AWA / W4H is a non-profit, faith-based organization that provides humanitarian relief to people in need throughout the world. With offices in the United States and Canada, this organization is committed to providing aid to the First Nations whose lives are often threatened by poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to medical care.

Working with the Ontario conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church and the combined effort of AWA / W4H, the First Nations have received food, clothing, and toys for the children. The Ontario Conference provides these items in a variety of ways, such as in-kind donations, assistance with transportation, and partnerships with local organizations.

Because of these efforts AWA / W4H has had a growing impact on the lives of the First Nations in North America.

Additionally, the Ontario Conference and AWA / W4H are looking forward to developing a partnership with Farm Stew! We are so impressed with their mission to help empower indigenous peoples to become self-reliant. We believe this is an incredibly important cause that will have a lasting, positive effect on the First Nation communities.

The Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists is to be commended for their generous and compassionate efforts to help the Indigenous people of Sioux Lookout and area. By obtaining funds to provide a truck full of food, clothing, and toys, they are truly making a difference in the lives of those in need. And because of their inspiring

efforts, a man was moved to give because of the truck that delivered the life-saving supplies. He donated \$40,000 to purchase more supplies for the next phase of the project which is scheduled for March.

This is a wonderful example of how we can use our resources to make a positive difference in the world. It is heart-warming to see how people can come together to help those who may not have the means to provide for themselves.

We should all be inspired by the Ontario Conference and strive to make our own contributions to those in need. Whether it is through donations of money, food, or other resources even as gifts in kind, or through volunteer work, we can all make a positive impact in someone's life. As leader and president of the Ontario Conference, Elder Mansfield Edwards has personally taken on the ministry to the indigenous people. He has done so to see that things are done right and that the people are provided for. Elder Mansfield is also proud of the fact that Ray Young, AWA / W4H's VP of Operations was able to acquire a heated hangar close to Sioux Lookout to house the ministry's Cessna 206. What a difference a heated hangar makes in frigid temperatures!

If you are looking for a way to help, consider donating to our combined efforts of AWA / W4H and the Ontario Conference, and our partner organization, Farm Stew, which provides assistance to those in need. Every contribution, no matter how small, can make a big difference. Thank you for your support in helping the Indigenous people of Sioux Lookout.

A Changing World, A Never-Changing God

by Betchie Albaracin

The AWA Philippines base is located in Sagpangan Aborlan, Palawan. From this location, we provide many free services to the community. In September 2020, I had first opportunity to be with and socialize with some of the residents of this area. I saw that this area is quiet and there are only a few nearby neighbors. The silence of a place is sad at times. However, my desire to provide service to AWA and that community has given me more satisfaction than the opportunities I may have missed socializing with young people in other places.

In the two years that have passed, I have met a few young people, and I am happy when I am with them. During these two years, I have also faced many challenges—especially when handling land use conversion, transfer of title, paying taxes and bills, and engaging in public consultation.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE

We conducted our first public consultation on January 12, 2023. Our goal was to have 100 people from the community attend our event. A few days before the start of the public consultation, I prayed that the Lord would give me courage and intelligence to carry out the public consultation properly.

A few hours before the beginning of the meeting, I noticed the arrival of people. We did have people come, but it did not reach the 100 people we expected with the municipal and barangay staff. Some of the people we invited signed the attendance, but left after a few minutes. Some of them came back to another meeting. There were also people asking about AWA projects.

Despite our experience, the public consultation was successful. Although we did not achieve 100 people attending, we were able to convey the good purpose of AWA to this community.

The world we live in is constantly changing. Just an example of this is my experiences in organizing documents, attending meetings, and submitting requirements for government paperwork. People are changing. In our work, we have experienced people not sharing the exact requirements for our meetings, not following the agreed meeting days, and people who wanted to stop the work. In our area, there is a constant change of population numerically and economically. People's behavior change. Sadly, many people do not even know the name of their neighbors. Sometimes people do not want to involve themselves in anything other than their own immediate interests.

Praise the Lord because, despite the change of people, He remains constant to guide us in all of our needs. Despite these experiences, and in the midst of change and uncertainty, let's keep trusting in God who does not change!



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





Jumper Cables

by Christine Cayetano



More than a couple of weeks ago, I went to a churchmate's house for a late lunch due to so much busyness. While eating, we were disrupted by a person I thought was a customer since my friend was operating a sari-sari store in front of her house. When she came back she told me that it was her neighbor, Winnie, asking for a favor that did not concern her, *but me*.

Her neighbors' vehicle wouldn't start since it had not been used for weeks and they were asking if they could borrow the battery of my service vehicle. They tried asking their neighbor who was driving by but they were denied.

Lunch was just halfway through and I was starving since I didn't have breakfast. I said that I couldn't lend my battery since it would be hard to take it down and return but I was willing to go home and get a jumper cable to help their van get started. After hurriedly finishing lunch, I went home and returned as fast as could since rain was coming. I made it just before raindrops started to fall! Once the cables were hooked to both batteries, one click in the ignition and the engine came to life. They wanted to pay me for the service and I said that there was no need. It was a pleasure to be of help. Just to see the smiles on their faces was worth it.

My friend said that my coming over for lunch had a purpose! I pray that little deed of kindness made a good impression on my friend's neighbor as she shares the message of hope in her neighborhood.

Like jumper cables that need to be connected to give life to a dead battery, our lives must be always connected to the power source, Jesus Christ, in order to succeed in facing all the challenges, difficulties, and battles of this life. We must constantly be connected to overcome our day-to-day trials. John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye except ye abide in me."

MEET THE AUTHORS...

Your AWA Missionaries serving in the
AWA Philippines - Palawan Mission Project:



Christine Cayetano



Betchie Albaracin



Honey Golden Oat Granola

by Jordana Runne

This 45 minute granola is as good as gold!

INGREDIENTS:

| | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------|
| 5 ½ | cups | Whole Oats |
| ½ | cup | Coconut Oil |
| ½ | cup | Honey |
| 1 | tblsp. | Salt |
| 1 | tblsp. | Vanilla Extract |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a big mixing bowl, put oats.
3. In a smaller bowl combine the oil, salt, honey, and vanilla extract.
4. Mix the wet and dry ingredients together very well.
5. Spread the granola on a greased cookie sheet in a donut shape so the oats cook evenly.
6. Cook for 30-40 minutes checking on it at 10 minute intervals and stir lightly. Let cool until crunchy and serve!

Crunch on your Honey Golden Oat Granola to jump start your day!!

TIPS:

- After cooking, add fruit, nuts and/or seeds.
- Optional: at step 5, put your toppings in the granola and push it down hard in the baking sheet. When it's cooked and done, cut it into bars!

MEET THE AUTHOR...



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



Bats!

by Julie Young

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

—Romans 12:2

Ray and I work together day in and day out and we're often put in stressful situations. Whether it's flying the AWA planes, traveling to each project as management, or assisting missionaries on site visits, we're there together. We pitch in doing chores, repairing base homes, tractors, trucks, planes; you name it we fix it! It gets very overwhelming **but** somehow we try to find time for humor to relieve the stress. Often unusual circumstances arise that give us a bit of a chuckle.

The windsock on the base needed replacing as it

had been tattered by wind, rain, and sunshine. We grabbed the necessary tools from the tool container and set about loosening the bolts on the tall windsock pole. Working together we laid it down in the grass and proceeded to walk over and remove the windsock from the attachment eye ring.

Ray noticed right away that the fabric was wiggling and we thought perhaps a bird, a gecko, or a snake had slithered up and taken up residence in the bottom point of the remaining fabric. Why it would choose to be so high in a windsock in the elements was a mystery to us.

Curiously he walked closer to see what it was as I stood way back (in fear of what it may be) and he slowly pulled the fabric back so we could see what was wiggling.

Low and behold it was approximately 20 BATS!

Both of us stepped back very fast in case they decided to fly out after being exposed but they just snuggled in closer together!

There were two guard bats at each end of the windsock that watched us with intrigue and we did not tempt fate and bother them too much. We walked away and left them all to decide where to fly away overnight. Being the month of December we joked, “Look what Santa put in our windsock ‘stocking.’”

Next morning we went back to check on them and they had all flown away. Where they decide to take up residence next we will never know. Maybe they will join the rest of them that live in the eaves of the main house! By shooing away those bats we changed their home and direction, making them have to rebuild.

AWAF Philippines is also in a massive rebuilding, currently paperwork has been filed for a flight permit so the plane and pilot can fly legally. With a new pilot in place the goal is to fly to remote islands to establish needed pastoral outreach and medical flights.

As we enter into new ways to service the local community, we will persevere with the direction that the Lord is leading us. A change is inevitable as the world is a different culture and we will change to meet the challenges. Flexibility and adaptability are keys to making changes quickly and meeting the needs of the people.

Thankfully, God knows the direction for our changing lives, He knows our place in the future. May we all find ways to serve in some way every day.

**The LORD shall fight for you,
and ye shall hold your peace.**

—Exodus 14:14

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.





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.



PHILIPPINES

Aircraft Battery: \$500

Mission Truck: \$20,000

Barrel of Aviation Gas: \$500

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

\$500 • \$20,000

\$500 • \$5,000

GUYANA

6 Cylinders: \$14,000

Propellor: \$15,000

Car Battery: \$400

Car Tires \$500

\$400 • \$500

\$14,000

\$15,000



GLOBAL MISSIONARY NEED

Server for storing photos of all the exciting work our missionary teams do so we can have it in a safe place to be used in our publications: **\$1,000**

\$1,000

CANADA - (NORTHERN ONTARIO PROJECT)



Airplane GPS: **\$13,000**

Annual Inspection Fee: **\$2,000** for Cessna 206

\$13,000 • \$2,000



MAINTENANCE

Cessna 172 Starter: **\$1,000** • GPS Screen: **\$900** • Engine Monitor: **\$600**

IA (Inspector Authority) 2-year subscription: **\$912**

Static Wic: **\$30** • Engine Cylinder: **\$1,700**

Monthly Maintenance Tracking Software: **\$100/month, \$1200/year**

\$1,000 • \$900 • \$600 • \$912 • \$30 • \$1,700 • \$100/\$1,200



DISASTER RESPONSE

Professional Camera: **\$600** • Laptop: **\$3,000**

Mutt Muffs (2 pairs): **\$100** each

Rescue Diver Certification/Gear: **\$3,500**

\$600 • \$3,000 • \$200 • \$3,500



NICARAGUA

Airplane Battery: **\$500**

Trailer: **\$600**

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Pray • Care • Share



Answering the Call

by Pastor Ric Swaningson

Serving God in the mission field can be a difficult concept to understand, especially if you have never had a selfless upbringing. However, it doesn't have to be that way! Serving God can be as simple as living your life in a way that shows love and respect for others just as you show or want the same for yourself. You remember the golden rule, don't you? It really can be that easy.

The best scenario to serve comes from the heart! The desire to serve God or do mission work for Him can come from a deep, sincere desire to honor and glorify your Father in heaven through our deeds and actions. It's in these times we are called to serve God in mission service when it is the most rewarding! It is a rough life but in the end, we want for nothing.

Other so-called "callings" come from personal disasters or even the deep-seated desire to improve our life situation. Some callings may be very different. If we find ourselves in difficult or even desperate situations, we may find ourselves bargaining with God in an attempt to change our circumstances. We may promise to do something for God if He will just help us. We often hear stories of people who have gone through difficult times and have come out on the other side, angry or feeling disenfranchised by God, or the service organization they joined.

The Bugs Bunny (Elmer Fudd) effect: In one episode, Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd are in a plane about to crash. There is only one parachute! Bugs Bunny switches Elmer Fudd's parachute with a bag full of silverware. Elmer Fudd jumps out of the plane, thinking he has outsmarted the old "wascally wabbit." Elmer thinks to himself, "I am the smarter one!" And so, jumping out of the aircraft, he pulls the ripcord, laughing. However, when the ripcord is pulled, all that flatware flies upward; forks, knives, and spoons tinkling away. He realizes he's in trouble and starts to pray. I suppose he was making fantastic promises while he muttered his prayer.

It may have sounded like this: "Lord? If you save me, I will serve you! If you get me out of the mess I created, I will become a good person and even a missionary." *You know the prayer; we have all prayed like that.* Miraculously, he is saved by a flock of geese! Praise God! However, when it's all over, he forgets his commitment and returns to his old ways. Like many, people may see it through to the first step, but at the first sign of trouble, *they're outta here!* Then off they go, blaming everyone but the person looking at them in the mirror.

Some take a call on the **"Fantasy Island" concept:** *What a great and adventurous life the missionary lives! Wow! I want that!* They get caught up in the romantic fantasy of all that Glory and adventure. After all, doesn't God give

those in service a “Glory Fire Hose” to put out the devil’s fire? *How cool is that?!* They imagine being plugged into the vast pressure of God’s Endless Glory and Blessings. Add to that, and they imagine being surrounded by all that is Holy. His Angels encompass them at every corner, and if they thirst well, that’s easy. Simply take a drink from God’s extraordinary hose of Glory! (*All that glitters is at their disposal; God’s Gold*).

The funding is endless. They now have all their needs met, and the mission life is Glorious! *Right?* “**Ha, not so fast!**” said the seasoned missionary. “It’s not like that at all!” The reality is it’s dirty, messy and full of varied and complex situations. You will face multiple deception traps, and it is filled with discouragement, anguish, pain, anger, and suffering of the disparate peoples of this old sin-filled world. Some of these desperate people will even bite the hand that feeds them or lash out; some will even steal from the very mission worker or organization that gives them daily bread! They gossip about you, try to take advantage of you, and find ways to separate you from the *endless funding* they believe you to have. They will try to destroy the only one who is there to help!

Real-life reality strikes the missionary especially hard with how raw and rough it can be. But we have faith God will provide. Yes, God does give us certain privilege and even protection, but it’s still “real life” in the mission field. *Is it worth it?* “YES!” says the seasoned missionary. “Life isn’t all roses and glory, but the rewards of serving God and His helpless people are out of this world!”

He continues: “It can be very easy to get caught up in the romanticized vision of mission life, but it is essential to remember that it is still an incredibly challenging lifestyle. It can lead to personal disaster if we are not adequately prepared for the struggles that come with it. In addition to the hard work and dedication required, mission work often requires much sacrifice. It can be difficult to be away from family and friends, and it can be hard to adjust to a new culture or language. It is important to be realistic and prepared for the challenges that come with mission work while still maintaining our faith and hope in the Lord.”

This scene reminds us that we should serve God not because we want something in return but because it is the right thing to do. It’s not enough to just say a prayer when we’re in need; we must strive to live our lives in a way that honors God, that shows love and respect for others always.

The Joshua effect:

In the Bible, in the book of Joshua 24:15, it famously states, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.” This directive reminds us that we all have the freedom to choose how we want to live, which includes the choice to dedicate our lives to missionary work.

Missionaries often face difficult decisions, long hours, and limited resources, but the rewards can be immeasurable. Those who choose to serve a higher purpose may find personal fulfillment and joy in seeing the people they help become more self-sufficient and empowered. They may also gain a greater appreciation for the diversity of cultures and religions worldwide.

Ultimately, the choice of whether to serve as a missionary or not is up to each individual. However, those who choose to pursue a life of missionary work should be prepared for the hard work and challenges it entails. If they are willing to commit and persevere, they can experience the rewards that come with serving a higher purpose. Jesus said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” Whose choice is it? *God’s?* No, He chose **you** at birth! Why do you think you are here? It is your choice to follow Him; it is, in fact, your privilege.

I also want to remind you that service to God should not be taken lightly. We must remember that when we serve God, we are not just doing something to get something in return. We are responding to the call of our LORD, who desires nothing less than our obedience and love.

The next time you feel like you begin to serve God, remember Elmer Fudd and the blessing he received from praying. And make sure that you are living your life in a way that honors God always and shows love and respect for yourself, others, and the world around you.

Let us all strive to find ways to serve God from the heart. But let us also remember that mission service can come from many circumstances in life and that even in difficult or desperate times, we can be called to serve. Let us not forget that if we respond to this calling, God will use our service to further His kingdom and bless us in ways we cannot even imagine.

May God bless us all as we strive to serve Him in mission service. Amen.



What a Great Influence

Mabaruma, Guyana

by Pastor Deyvid Batista

The Soccer World Cup happening in Qatar. Five missionaries passionate about the mission. Coconut water in abundance like I have never seen before. Mabaruma is certainly a land of many blessings, and though Mabaruma is a blessed land, it also faces tremendous challenges.

On Monday, December 5, 2022, at 8 am and after a journey of approximately 25 hours, I arrived in Mabaruma, Guyana with only one intention; serving the Lord and serving the local community on behalf of Adventist World Aviation/Wings for Humanity.

Some very special meetings made it clear to me that the aviation project in Mabaruma is seen with great respect and admiration by the local leaders and community. Both, the Regional Officer, and the Chairman of the entire region have the doors more than open for us missionaries. They were more than happy to see missionaries back in the field after the pandemic, which has made travel extremely difficult. Local leaders look forward to not only seeing us work in and serve

the community again through flights, but more than that, look forward to seeing us interact on the ground, door to door, and bringing love and hope.

More recently, Bruce and Monique Wilkerson, as well as previous missionaries have proven that we are there to save lives and redeem souls for Christ Jesus.

Locals Alfie and Lisa from Mabaruma, and friends of God as well as AWA/WFH made us feel at home with so much warmth and a hearty table of local foods. The pandemic certainly had a huge impact on the region, making life there even more challenging. Feeding the family is certainly a present challenge in Mabaruma and the region. As missionaries, this filled our hearts with empathy, and at the same time, with the desire to see Jesus return. Clothes, toys as well as the word of God are more than welcome as we go out on Sabbath afternoon to interact with the community; members, and non-members of the AWA/WFH center of influence.



The excitement previously mentioned by the leaders, little by little, proves to be a challenge when we realize that both aircraft need many hours of maintenance as well as parts before they can fly again. Obviously, financial resources are always something we need and sometimes hard for us to get but certainly not for God because He always faithfully blesses our donors, enabling them to donate to specific projects such as Mabaruma. And so it is we constantly encourage our readers to donate.

Sabbaths are nothing less than super special in Mabaruma. The community flocks to the AWA/WFH center of influence because they know that there the word of God will be opened, and lives will be transformed. Our second Sabbath in Mabaruma was even more special as we had the opportunity to join the locals in celebrating Communion. The building was completely packed.

Then it was time to reflect, time to understand that the next day we would leave but that the challenges, dreams, and opportunities to serve the community would continue. When we departed from the local

airport, we left with the feeling of having done so little compared to the challenges that are there. As we took off, we saw our aircraft, our hangar, the missionaries' residence, and our center of influence in the distance, praying that the influence of that place will bring souls to Jesus.

See you soon, Mabaruma!

MEET THE AUTHOR...



Pastor Deyvid Batista is a missionary-in-training to serve in Mabaruma, Guyana

PROJECT LAUNCH

Adventist World Aviation | **Project USA: Disaster Response** | Wings 4 Humanity



The Leger Family

Meet Steven and Sasha Leger

- Newlyweds seeking to dedicate their lives to the service of others
- Steven is the **Disaster Relief Specialist** for Adventist World Aviation and Wings 4 Humanity
- Sasha is a musician and teacher. She sings and plays the violin.

Project Launch

- Adventist World Aviation & Wings 4 Humanity is officially launching **Project USA: Disaster Response** - **\$60,000 Required to launch**



Search & Rescue

Meet Apache, a 60 pound British Labrador Retriever training to be certified as a Search and Rescue (SAR) dog for **Project USA: Disaster Response**. His training requires time and money.

SAR dogs, like Apache, make it easier for me to bypass the red tape and politics of entering disaster zones. Because of Apache's incredible sense of smell, he can find someone lost in the woods or buried under rubble much faster than a human. SAR dogs are few and far between. When a SAR dog shows up it's a big deal.

Training a SAR dog and providing the necessary resources can be costly. A SAR dog and can cost up to \$20,000 to fully certify, requiring 20 to 40 hours a week of training. The cost of Apache's food, veterinarian visits, travel, and tests add up over time.

Project USA: Disaster Response aims to utilize SAR dogs, like Apache, to open up opportunities for rescue and relief in impacted areas.

The Golden Hour

In medical terminology, **The Golden Hour** is the first hour after the occurrence of a traumatic injury, considered the most critical for successful emergency treatment.

The Golden Hour may also be applied spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

When a disaster strikes many victims are physically okay, but mentally or emotionally shattered: Hopelessness is the fastest killer in these situations.

I respond when the need is greatest, directly after a disaster! Caring for the immediate physical and psychological needs of people. Our SAR dog Apache assists in emotional support and my wife Sasha sings and plays music. I pray with everyone we meet and offer a shoulder to cry on when needed.

An Appeal From Steven

Currently I am spearheading the launch of this project, however I need your support.

I am requesting financial partners for **Project USA: Disaster Response**. **This project needs \$60,000 to launch.** \$60,000 covers equipment, travel, SAR dog training, and aircraft deployment.

Time is short and disasters are increasing! Together we can make a difference in the lives of many more like Reid. Please consider donating. Thank you!

The Golden Hour Saves Reid

Reid is an army veteran who is currently getting to know a loving and caring God through the support and love of our team members.

On December 10th, 2021, I responded to a tornado disaster in Mayfield, Kentucky with Gideon Rescue, a team based out of Oklahoma. During the response we came across Reid's home. It was still intact but badly damaged with the driveway completely blocked by fallen trees. We found Reid surrounded by empty beer cans and a rope hanging from one of the rafters in his house: He was going to commit suicide.

We were able to reach Reid within **The Golden Hour** and walk him back from the edge. We prayed with him, sang songs as a group, and cleared his driveway. He couldn't believe what we had done for him. Today he seeks to help others the same way we helped him and we welcome Reid to our team.

Project USA: Disaster Response aims to respond within **The Golden Hour** of a disaster when those like Reid need it most.





Just a Mechanic...

by Kyle Stevenson

Often in the common working world, we all have one job, sometimes two. In the past, I used to have *one job* as an aircraft mechanic, (mainly helicopters), and that was what I did.

Working for AWA/W4H as the Chief of Maintenance, one might assume that all I do is work on aircraft and maintain them. However, that is far from the truth. Working for a ministry as an aircraft mechanic involves far more “jobs” than just working on an airplane. Not only am I responsible for aircraft maintenance on our entire fleet of aircraft but I’m also tech support, IT, author (writing this article), photographer, facilities maintenance, car mechanic, web editor, safety officer, emergency field responder for our aircraft, plumber, carpenter, public speaker, donor relations, etc...

This line of work can be extremely challenging, but incredibly rewarding. The job requires a high level of

technical knowledge and expertise to ensure the aircraft and its components are in proper working order. Additionally, as an aircraft mechanic, I must adhere to strict safety standards and regulations to guarantee the safety of both personnel and equipment.

The job often requires long hours and can be physically demanding. I must be able to lift heavy objects, work in tight spaces, and understand complicated instructions. Working with intricate machinery and systems can also be difficult, as it often requires extensive knowledge of mechanics and the ability to think quickly and make swift decisions.

In addition to the technical and physical challenges, I sometimes work in challenging conditions such as extreme temperatures, and occasionally inadequate maintenance accommodations while answering a field call. Sometimes what you have is *all* you have. Being able to remain focused and attentive in these conditions is essential.



Serving in this capacity, I work with a team of like-minded individuals and have gained valuable experience with aircraft systems and components. Additionally, I can take pride in knowing that my work is keeping personnel and equipment safe and running efficiently, especially in the face of disaster and emergency.

On top of the *just the mechanic* job, the ministry aspect brings a whole other level of job functions that I never even imagined I'd use on a weekly, or *daily* basis. It's often easy to get discouraged sometimes with all the workload and sometimes the ***to-do list*** is overwhelming. But that's why it's not a job. It's always been a calling and that's the way God intended it. The aviation ministry here at AWA/W4H is more than a job offered by our organization; it is a calling given by God. And because it's a calling, I'm ***never just a mechanic***, I'm a servant of God for the wellbeing of mankind in my field of expertise; called for His purpose to bless humanity.

If I were to look back at where I started 20 years ago from today and ask myself if I'd think about doing what I'm doing today, I'd think I was out of my mind. However, that's unequivocally a true statement. I *am* out of my mind. I'm no longer working for myself or my own gain but working for others and for God's kingdom. I am out of my mind and into the mind of Christ. And what better place to be but in God's mind, His heart, and His will?

There are wonderful opportunities here at AWA/W4H and maybe this is that moment God's heart is speaking to your heart. We need your talents here in this ministry but know that God needs you even more for the ministry, *His ministry*. If getting involved in God's hangar with AWA/W4H is something that draws you, please email us at info@flyawa.org or call the office at 919-938-2920 to start the conversation. I'd love to hear from you.

MEET THE AUTHOR...



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



Rios en el Desierto

Rivers in the Desert

by Josh and Yosi Fix

En este mundo, especialmente en estos tiempos, hay muchas incertidumbres y peligros. Las soluciones son escasas y nosotros estamos siendo expuestos a situaciones más y más difíciles.

No me refiero a que no se hayan visto tiempos tumultuosos en este mundo, pero en la actualidad, los tiempos difíciles se están dilatando y expandiendo a cada región, tales como los desastres naturales, los problemas económicos, guerras, enfermedades, la confusión política, la violencia de todo tipo y las familias quebrándose. Todo esto parece incrementar globalmente.

La pregunta es ¿dónde buscamos las soluciones?

Recientemente, estuvimos enfrentando el desafío de encontrar una casa. En estos tiempos, el mercado para comprar casas es especialmente difícil, más aún si buscas una casa en una región rural. A su vez, teníamos que considerar que la mamá de Yosi y su hermana estarían viviendo con nosotros, así que necesitábamos buscar un lugar de mayor capacidad. Frente a esta situación, pensamos que un camper sería nuestra opción mas económica, pero nos dimos cuenta que ésto tomaría la mayor parte de nuestro dinero, así que descartamos esa opción.

Necesitábamos un lugar para vivir y aún sin preguntar, un amigo nos ofreció un cuarto de hotel por una semana. Luego

In this world, especially these days, there are many uncertainties and dangers. Solutions are getting fewer, and we are being placed into harder and harder situations. Not that there have never been harder times in this world, but these days, the hard times are getting more widespread the problems are increasing across the board. Natural disasters, economic issues, war, diseases, political turmoil, violence of all kinds, and the breakdown of families. All these seem to be increasing all around the world. Where do we turn for solutions?

Here, recently, we were faced with the problem of housing. These days the housing market is getting difficult, to say the least, especially if you have preferences like being in a country setting. We also are faced with the issue of Yosi's mother and sister coming to live with us, so we were looking for a greater capacity. We were faced with this issue and thought we needed to get a camper since it would be our cheapest option and then continue looking for a more permanent solution later. The camper option would take most of our money, and we didn't like that.

We needed a place to go, though, and without asking, some friends got us a room at an extended-stay hotel for a week. Then after that, another friend let us stay in their

de eso, otro amigo nos permitió quedar en su departamento que estaba vacío y con un mes de renta ya pagado. En una semana, nuestros amigos se estarán mudando a otra casa y nosotros estaremos mudándonos al lugar que ellos estarán dejando. ¡Dios está proveyéndonos! ¡Él está a nuestro lado!

Nuestro camino se ha estado abriendo a cada paso que damos y alabamos a Dios por eso. No estamos seguros por qué las cosas están yendo de este modo en nuestras vidas, pero creemos que Dios nos está enseñando, así como Él lo hizo con el pueblo de Israel: abriendo camino en el desierto. En Isaías 43:19 Dios dice, “he aquí que yo hago cosa nueva; pronto saldrá a luz; ¿no la conoceréis? Otra vez abriré camino en el desierto, y ríos en la soledad”. (RVR)

Dios no necesita situaciones favorables para proveer por nuestras necesidades. Lo que necesita es que lo sigamos donde sea que nos guíe. Luego, y como dice el Salmo 23, “junto a aguas de reposo” y “en caminos de justicia” Dios nos podrá guiar. En ocasiones, el camino puede llevarnos por “valles de sombra y muerte”, pero no tenemos que temer porque Él estará con nosotros.

Déjeme decirle que uno puede escuchar miles de testimonios, pero es otra cosa tener que pasar por la experiencia.

Un día de estos, vamos a tener que enfrentarnos con la aparente “opción más segura”, y tendremos que tomar la decisión entre la primera opción, o seguir a Dios. Él no nos pide que nos exponamos a situaciones inseguras sin necesidad, pero debemos seguirlo, no importa lo que el mundo diga. Practicando nuestra fidelidad hacia Él en las pequeñas decisiones. Éstas, nos van a preparar para dar saltos más largos en la fe cuando el sustento que el mundo provee se corte. Pero nunca olvides, Dios siempre estará a tu lado. ¡El siempre proveerá!

apartment that they were no longer living in and had another month left on their lease. In a week or so, our friends are moving into another house, and we will be moving into their old place. God is providing for us! He is by our side!

Our way has been opening before our feet, and we praise God for that. We're not exactly sure why things are going how they are in our lives, but I do believe that God is teaching us just as He did the children of Israel, that He can make a way in the desert. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” God doesn't need favorable circumstances to provide for our needs. What He needs is for us to follow Him wherever He leads. Then He can lead us like the 23rd psalm says, “beside still waters” and “in paths of righteousness.” Sometimes The path might lead through “the valley of the shadow of death,” but we have no need to fear because He's with us.

Let me tell you, you can hear a thousand testimonies, but it's different to live it. We are going to be faced with the “safest option” one day, and we'll have to choose between that or actually following God's will for our lives. God isn't asking us to needlessly imperil ourselves, but we must follow God no matter what the world may say, and we need to make those kinds of decisions now while they are small. They will prepare us to make the larger leaps of faith down the road when all earthly support is cut off. But never forget, He will always be by your side. He will provide!

MEET THE AUTHORS...



Josh Fix, and his wife, Yosiday, and their children, Caleb and Isaac, are Missionaries with AWA.

**FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED,
FREELY GIVE.** MATTHEW 10:8

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A Changing Mission Context, And An Unchanging God

by Jim Kincaid

When Linda and I look back over the 44 years we have been in mission work in Alaska, we recognize the huge differences in context. In the late 1970s when we started we were in our late 20s, recently graduated from Walla Walla College with a toddler in hand, and another on the way. We had settled in Fairbanks, Alaska's second-largest city. Our introduction to work in a native village occurred on a Sabbath in the late fall of 1978, when we were invited on a flight by private plane to Northwest Alaska. There we visited the three villages of Shungnak, Ambler, and Selawik. We were most impacted by the village of Selawik.

Selawik is situated in a huge swampy area, on both banks of a river, and on a large island. At that time, there were no bridges, so everyone had to go back and forth by boat.

We caught a ride across to where the small Adventist Church was located. On the boat ride, which lasted only a matter of minutes, we caught the pungent odors of fish, caribou meat

gone bad, and the lingering smell of honey buckets which at the time were seemingly emptied off the front porch of every house.

The church was very old and as the foundation rotted and the permafrost melted it sank further and further into the tundra. There were remains of a white picket fence around a small yard, which was overgrown with grass and weeds. The place had the appearance that someone had cared a lot for the church, but not lately.

The missionary then assigned to the village was away, and the church was locked and inaccessible. So we cupped our faces with our hands and peered in the windows.

We were very impressed. Linda and I said to ourselves at the time, "A person would really need a special outpouring of missionary spirit to live and work here!" Little did we know that in less than 2 years it would be us.



In those days typically, there would be no more than one or two telephones in each village. And if you were blessed with a successful connection, it would so bad as barely intelligible. Television was just starting to be seen in rural Alaska.

Once we were assigned to Northwest Alaska, we were based in Kotzebue and carried on ministry in primarily the four villages of Ambler, Shungnak, Selawik, and Kotzebue.

On a typical Sabbath, we launched out of Kotzebue in the dark and arrived in the upper Kobuk villages just as the sun was peaking over hills to the east. We would land on the Kobuk River ice in front of Ambler and offload Linda and one of our toddlers. I would go on to Shungnak with the other of our children. We would each hold a service and then join up and travel back west to Selawik for service. Our Sabbath activities would conclude with a fourth service in Kotzebue.

Over the last 40-plus years we have spent 16 years in Kotzebue. We have many pleasant memories and many acquaintances. As time goes by change has been happening. The villages are not the same. Now everyone over the age of 12 has a smartphone. TVs populate every room of every house, the internet is everywhere. Most villages now have clean water piped to every house and sewer piped away. That is likely the most positive change.

The advent of technology brings with it a materialistic worldview that makes people more secular and more challenging to reach with the gospel. But the positive side of these changes is that as the remote village population watches world events unfold, they do so in real-time. This tends to give context to our prophetic message as Adventists.

The take-home message I wish to convey is that our loving Father in heaven is preparing a harvest of representatives of every language, tongue, and tribe across the face of this earth. And God is using the likes of you and me to do what He wants. It is in our eternal best interest to be about our Father's business.

We wish to thank our faithful supporters who don't get tired of offering prayer and funding for the ongoing mission.

MEET THE AUTHOR...



**Jim Kincaid, and
his wife, Linda,
are your
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