



## A Growing Crop

When summer comes, the busy bees follow, and like a yearly migration, the busy bees of AWA trek up north to Wisconsin. We participate in the EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh as exhibitors in Hangar D and in the IAMA tent, where all the other missionary aviation organizations gather. IAMA stands for International Association of Missionary Aviation. It's a great time of fellowship, connection, and time to lift each other up in mission and logistics. But apart from the cordial mission interactions in the tent, there are likewise meaningful interactions with our booth in Hangar D—some missions, yes, but often the base and reporting center for all other business interactions.

For AWA as a whole, and no less Kyle and I, we have vendors to visit. Each year, we speak with partners who we've held ongoing relationships with over the years. We share with them updates about what's happening in our organization within the field. In return, they may have updates about their products or "the inside scoop" on other

products they'll soon be coming out with. It's great to talk to them face to face without waiting for calls to be returned or dealing with lost messages, as we know it happens—we're all human.

While most of our relationships are similar to this, some build over time before they begin to blossom.

We've shared about how Hadahsa has impacted the vendors in the past. She also has had an impact on those who are airshow participants. There's an Aerobatic team that was sponsored by Shell, and Hadahsa loves to meet up with them at Sun N' Fun each year. They're always at EAA but are usually far out on the grounds, in a place we rarely visit. It's a LOT of walking! It's easy to rack up over 16,000 steps a day! However, this year, the sponsored Shell team





she likes to visit has since been sponsored by another worldwide fuel company called Titan.

At EAA, the Titan Aerobatic team made their rounds to different

booths, signing autographed posters and taking photos with people. Hadahsa had found them and acquired the obligatory poster she always finds at these events, signed and banded. She came and found me, wanting me to take a photo with them. We were greeted with hugs, and a picture was taken. Then afterward, I spoke with one of the pilots about whether or not it was possible to talk to someone in the Titan company about a potential partnership with our organization. They have fuel worldwide; could they help fuel us somehow within our humanitarian work? I got the contact information of someone to speak with, and we will see how that goes.

In the meantime, as missionaries know, people are always watching. We're still unsure how it came about, but Hadahsa seems known for her connection with the Aerobatic team. As we walked into the park the following day, Hadahsa had gotten a few paces ahead. Cars, ATVs, and golf carts were periodically coming up the little winding road exhibitors take to walk into the event grounds. A nice, black minivan came up the road from behind us, passed us and Hadahsa, but stopped. Back-up lights engaged, and the vehicle slowly backed up and rolled down its window to Hadahsa with an exuberant hello. Though it looked questionable, we were right there, only a few paces behind. It was a van full of representatives from Titan. They knew about Hadahsa.

"Hey! We've got a free T-shirt for you, young lady!" they announced ecstatically.

They asked where we were located, seeing that we were vendors, too. So we told them about our two locations: the IAMA tent and Hangar D, and that Hadahsa would be in the Hangar with Daddy that morning.

"Perfect! We'll come by and get you that T-shirt!" they promised.

Later that morning, a runner for the Titan team came by the booth and invited Hadahsa and Kyle to come along. The Aerobatic team was in another hangar signing posters again. There was a line when Kyle and Hadahsa arrived,



but that didn't matter. Other reps communicated that Hadahsa Stevenson had arrived, and the rep brought her up front.

"I have a shirt for you!" he beamed.

She got a bright pink shirt, a dark Titan blue shirt, and four hats!

While so many little lessons can be drawn from this one experience, one thing can be said for sure: taking time to invest in relationships is paramount when making an impact on the kingdom of God. Will Titan look in our direction for a partnership to help fuel our operations globally? We have yet to learn. We do know that the impact of the consistent connection Hadahsa has had with the team from Sun N' Fun at EAA each year has been memorable.

On that note, we hope that the work we have been doing all this time with AWA is memorable, too—and it must be if you keep reading our newsletters! Thank you for staying connected, and we ask that you continue to support our ongoing initiatives for maintenance and mission service.

Blessings!

Kyle, Rebecca, and Hadahsa Stevenson



**Your AWA Mission Family  
stationed at AWA Headquarters  
in Wilson, NC:  
Kyle, Rebecca, & Hadahsa Stevenson**