



Broken “Feathers”

Sometimes accidents happen, and that’s just life, but part of my skill set is repairing airplane damage. I’ve done many significant repairs as an aircraft mechanic, and replacing a damaged aileron was nothing I hadn’t done before. Life can be unforgiving sometimes, but God, our Master Mechanic, always has a solution.

In this case, one of the airplanes we regularly use for Angelwings flights, the Toku Hana, was damaged on the ground by an unfortunate accident. A vehicle backing up to unload the plane hit the right-hand aileron.

The Toku Hana is a 1963 Piper Comanche, a PA-24-250. Being that old meant that finding replacement parts would not be easy. Piper is strict on flight controls and

damage, and finding a suitable replacement that was not already damaged proved slightly tricky. By God’s grace, we did find a good replacement aileron, which was also the cheapest option, which usually does not happen.

So, since the aileron replacement was removed from another plane, it needed to be sanded down and painted to match the Toku Hana. I got to work getting the base color paint matched at a local paint shop. I just happened to have a white that matched and a blue that was close enough to add some white to lighten up for the lighter blue striping. A volunteer came in to help me prep the aileron for paint, and once it was ready, I put down the base metallic blue paint. This was the first step in a

3-layer paint scheme, so I had to wait 24 hours for the paint to cure so I could put masking tape over the base to paint the white outer tip. Once again, I had to wait another 24 hours for the white to dry. The next day, I carefully measured the light blue striping, matched it to the new aileron with masking tape, and put the final layer down. In the end, the replacement was installed, and the airplane was returned to service with better than the original paint and a functioning flight control (the aileron) ready to serve again, helping do God's work.

The reality is that in our broken world, there will always be trials and tribulations. In this case, the airplane we use to help those suffering trials and tribulations was suffering its own season of tribulation. The good news is that God has a solution to all our problems, even though sometimes it may not seem like it.

Romans 12:12 says: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

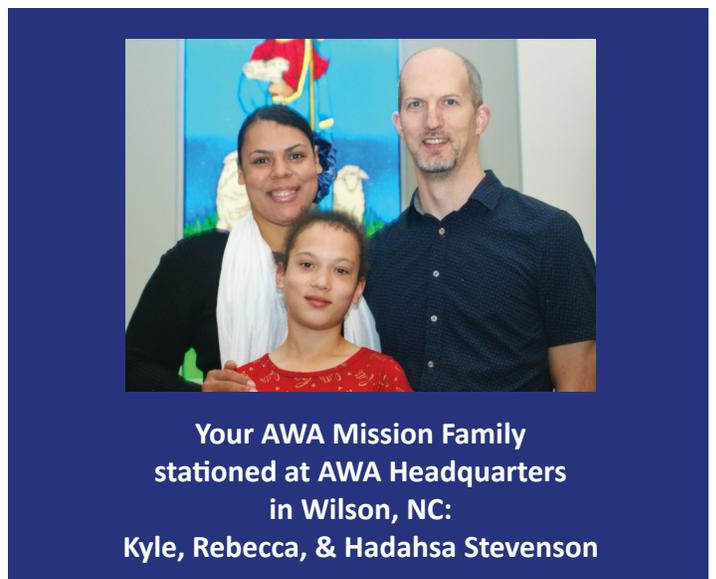
God wants us to be joyful and patient and come to Him with our problems.

John 16:33: "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

As we continue to serve the needs of people globally, I thank you for supporting me in my work. I ask that you continue to do so—not for my sake but for those whom AWA serves. Your monthly contributions go a long way with a bit of faith. Until next time!



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