



A Heavenly Connection on Aviation Ground

By Fabricio Leite

Attending Oshkosh AirVenture 2025 was undoubtedly one of the most meaningful experiences of my journey so far. It was my first time at this world-renowned aviation event, and finally being there—surrounded by hangars, airplanes, and people passionate about flying—was something almost beyond words. But more than a gathering of machines and technology, Oshkosh became for me a gathering of people, of purpose, and above all, of mission.

Representing Adventist World Aviation, we had two booths, one set up inside one of the hangars, right in the middle of the steady stream of curious and excited visitors, and the other at the Missionary Aviation tent. We had a clear mission: to introduce people to our work, the places we serve, the communities we reach, and how we do it—with wings, faith, and a heart to serve.

Seeing the variety of people who stopped by our booth was amazing. Men and women, young and old, entire families—many pilots or aviation professionals—were united by a love for aviation. And some of them had something more—a sincere desire to understand how that passion could be combined with faith to make a difference in the lives of others.

One of my most memorable moments was meeting fellow Adventists who had never heard of Adventist missionary aviation. Seeing the surprise and excitement on their faces as they discovered that our church has an aviation ministry dedicated to reaching remote communities was incredibly rewarding. I could sense that God was using those conversations to awaken something new in their hearts—perhaps a curiosity, maybe a calling, or even a dream they had thought was too distant to be real.

Of course, the heat was one of the significant challenges during the event—constant, intense, and exhausting. But with plenty of water and care, we pushed through each day,

staying focused and ready to engage, listen, and share.

Between moments at the booth, I also had the chance to explore the grounds. I saw a bit of everything—stunning aerobatic shows, historic military aircraft, ultralights, float planes, helicopters...Every aircraft seemed to tell its own story, which all fascinated me. But more than the machines' beauty, what caught my attention was the presence of other aviation ministries—people and organizations who, like us, use aviation as a service, outreach, and salvation tool.

On a spiritual level, Oshkosh left a profound impact on me. Being surrounded by so many people who share a passion for flying and a desire to use that passion to glorify God was a quiet confirmation that we are on the right path. We met people willing to support our ministry—some through donations, others through prayer, and even some who showed interest in serving personally by going to one of our mission fields and working on-site.

If I had to sum up the entire experience in one sentence, it would be this: Oshkosh is a place where hearts with a shared purpose connect and where telling the story of what God is doing through us becomes an invitation for others to join the movement.

Without a doubt, I plan to return once again. More than just an aviation fair, Oshkosh has become, for me, a space for divine encounters—where mission and aviation soar side by side.



Please Donate!

