



Community Connections and Practical Challenges

By Kristan Giggey, Head of Maintenance

Service is at the heart of AWA's mission, a mission made possible by faithful supporters. Aviation allows us to reach people and places that would otherwise remain isolated. While aircraft are simply machines, when put to the service of others, they become instruments of compassion. Every flight, every inspection, and every repair supports that greater calling.

Operational Updates

Our flight school's Cessna 172s remain heavily used. The winter weather and the realities of student training—tough landings—place real strain on these aircraft, making ongoing maintenance a constant priority.

We recently purchased a replacement radio for one of our student trainers, Cessna 172 N46518, after the display on the existing unit became unreadable. Due to a hectic maintenance schedule, installation has not yet

begun. This aircraft also still needs a new windscreen, estimated at \$1,000. The current windscreen has many fine cracks near the top, allowing rain to enter. Fortunately, we have had room for it in the hangar and kept it out of the winter weather.

Our IFR trainer, N75568, experienced a flap failure earlier this winter. The flaps were successfully repaired, but the repair required replacing a failed microswitch in the flap assembly. That switch alone costs approximately \$400. Shortly after returning the aircraft to service, we began experiencing intermittent starting issues. Although the starter relay engaged, the propeller would not turn.

Upon removing the starter, we discovered that its ground wire had been nearly rubbed in half due to prolonged contact with the engine baffling. While the starter is removed, we plan to have its internal

components inspected to ensure there are no hidden issues. These discoveries remind us that even small electrical components can have significant safety implications.

After our IFR trainer returns to service and our flagship “Toku Hana” has its landing gear serviced, we will return to the Cherokee Piper project. Our Piper Cherokee 180 continues to make slow but steady progress. It still needs a new battery. Once installed, we will test the aircraft’s engine electrical system and begin a careful evaluation of the rigging of the control surfaces—an essential step before returning the aircraft to service.

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We have been spending some time organizing and cleaning the hangar in preparation for an upcoming visit from the local Rotary Club. Although AWA carries out a unique mission, we remain largely unknown within our own community. This visit is an opportunity to build relationships, increase awareness, and help others understand how aviation can serve humanitarian and missionary purposes. If the weather allows, we hope a few visitors may even get to see our town from the air.

We are also facing new logistical challenges. With the recent closure of our local Fixed Base Operator (FBO), fuel is no longer available at our home airport. We now must fly approximately 15–20 minutes to another airport to purchase avgas. At present, it is unclear whether the city plans to establish a new FBO. While this adds time and cost to operations, we are adapting and continuing the work God has set before us.

And finally, every maintenance facility needs a good work truck. AWA has one, and although not the prettiest vehicle in town, it runs well and has great utility. Recently, we repaired corroded and broken wiring under the chassis to restore the rear lights. The front suspension and steering need work, and there is quite a bit of rust to treat, but this well-worn truck is a proven asset with its many compartments for tools and materials. The truck has been a part of AWA for many years, but it only arrived at AWA Wilson last month.

Looking Ahead

Several aircraft remain at critical stages of maintenance, restoration, and upgrade. Current

priorities include new aircraft batteries, radios, a Cessna 172 windscreen, and avionics. Your gift—whether large or small—has a direct and immediate impact on keeping aircraft airworthy and missions moving forward. The prayers, encouragement, and financial support of faithful partners enable Adventist World Aviation to maintain aircraft safely and operate in regions where access is limited and help is scarce. Each contribution helps turn aircraft into instruments of hope, carrying medical care and missionary support to those who need it most. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and prayers as we move forward into the work God has prepared for us.



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