

MARCH/APRIL 2009

Flying Adventures

FLYINGADVENTURES.COM

The Best In AIRPLANES TRAVEL LIFESTYLE

HIGH-TECH TIPS FOR
BETTER CROSS COUNTRIES

FLYING TO THE
CARIBBEAN MADE EASY

IT'S HAPPENING
AT HAVASU

TOP 10 Romantic getaways

HOT DEALS ON NEW
HOTELS & RESORTS

CESSNA CEO JACK PELTON
ON THE AVIATION ECONOMY

FOOD FOR YOUR NEXT FLIGHT

WHERE TO GO IN A DAY

ANGELS WITH WINGS

WINGS OF HOPE

A 50+ year testament to what an amazing difference small airplanes can make



Four friends sat listening to their bishop one Sunday morning in the early 1960s as he described the amazing work accomplished by a nun who flew a Piper Cub to bring aid to Kenyan villages. Trouble was, the bishop said that the Cub's cloth wings and body were virtually in shambles and the nun's work would soon come to an end. The four friends, all aviators, decided what the nun really needed was an all-metal airplane and made it their task to rise to the occasion. The men pooled their money to refurbish a Cessna, and the aircraft was shipped to Kenya for the nun.

Their gesture made the news, and these four friends found themselves at the center of attention. They received telegrams and letters from around the world. Even Hollywood got involved, kicking around the idea of a nun that flies, and ultimately, came up with *The Flying Nun*. . . . Even more important, people wanted to know if the men could repeat their success in other parts of the world where the same efforts could make a huge difference in people's lives. Thus, Wings of Hope began. Today, this nonsectarian, nonracial, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization has more than 2,000 volunteers working in 153 bases of operation in 42 countries. Key to everything they do, of course, is general-aviation aircraft flown by volunteer pilots into areas where people are truly in need.

"We don't come in and give stuff away to the poor," says Wings of Hope president Doug Clements. "We pay attention to the entire

economic system," he continues. "We teach people how to raise food, market it and become suppliers." Equally as critical is connecting the local people with existing political and social systems to ensure long-term viability.

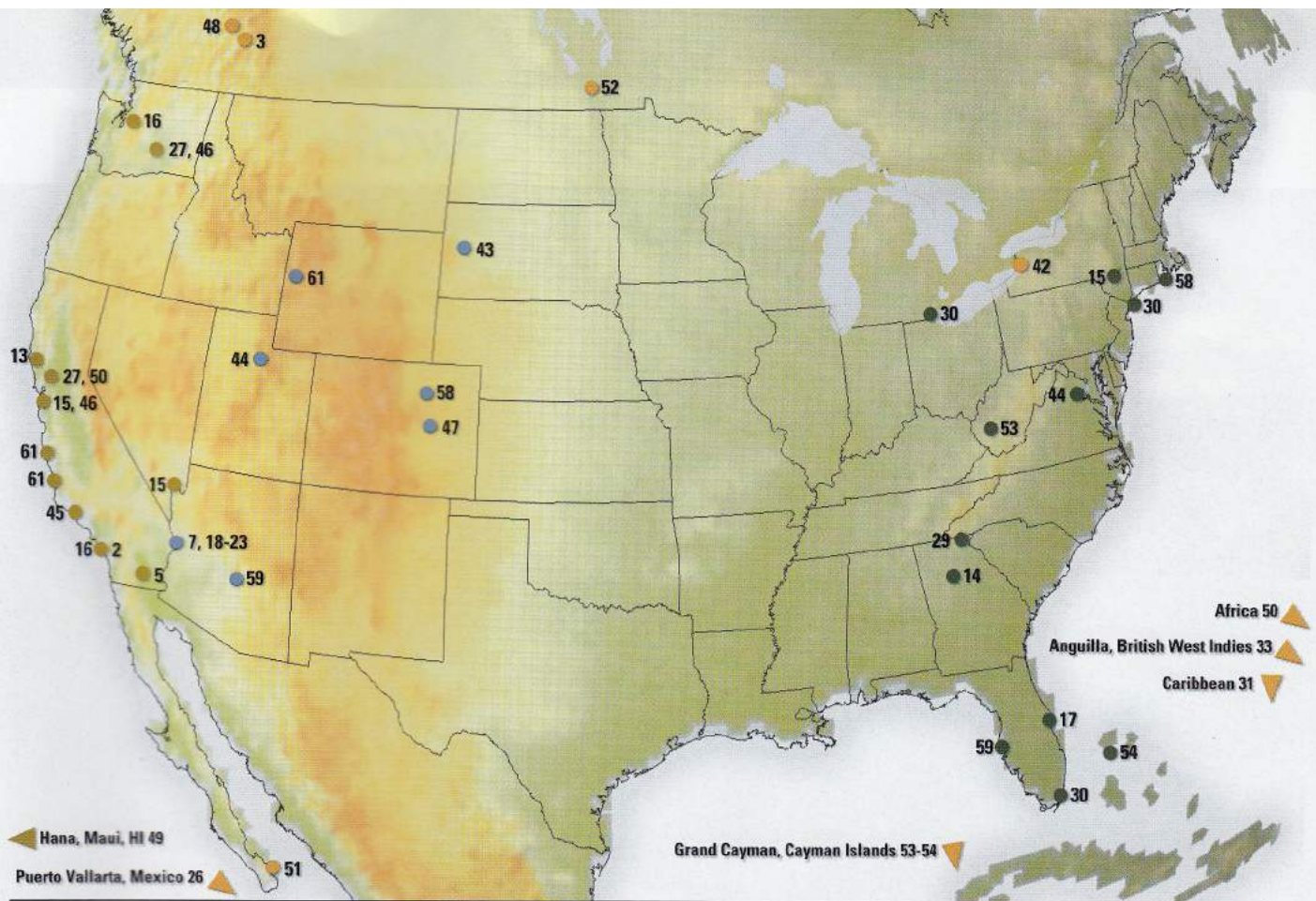
The overarching goal of each Wings of Hope effort is to work themselves out of business, close up shop in one location and move on to some place else. They've done that. There are places in Africa and Central and South America where people are now self-sufficient because of the efforts of Wings of Hope.

"We do nothing of a political or religious nature," says Clements, "which allows governments to embrace our activities. For example, all the other charities have been thrown out of Zimbabwe, not Wings of Hope. We're also the only aviation charity invited to Vietnam." He's in conversation with the Vietnamese to establish 10 Wings of Hope projects there.

Each Wings of Hope project comes with at least one general-aviation aircraft, from Cessnas to DC-3s. The planes themselves are typically donated to the organization and then refurbished in a sprawling hangar in St. Louis, Mo., where more than 500 volunteers turn up for work at the national headquarters. "Most are full time and work five days a week," says Clements.

Harrison Ford is chairman of Wings of Hope's membership program, which raises the bulk of the funds the organization needs to operate. Ninety percent of the money raised goes directly to the charity's work in the field. "We can do that because we have so many volunteers," points out Doug Clements with a deserved pride. Other notables who have supported Wings of Hope through the years include Arnold Palmer, Stan Musial, Tom Stafford, General Chuck Yeager, Kurt Russell, Elizabeth Dole and General Colin Powell.

Wings of Hope employs volunteers with any number of talents to offer — accountants, contractors, orthopedic surgeons, business planners, human resources specialists and, of course, pilots. The organization expects volunteer pilots to have at least 750 hours total time with a commercial and instrument ticket. Beyond that, Wings of Hope says their volunteers can expect "hard work, no pay, massive patience and a firsthand experience in seeing great happiness in the eyes of the poorest of the poor." For more information, call 712.325.8970 or visit Wings-of-Hope.org.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 68 PAGES

Pacific

- CA – Alexander Valley 13
- CA – Los Angeles 16
- CA – Napa 27, 50
- CA – Palm Springs 5
- CA – Paso Robles 61
- CA – San Francisco 15, 46
- CA – Santa Maria 61
- CA – Solvang 45
- CA – Van Nuys 2
- HI – Hana, Maui 49
- NV – Las Vegas 15
- WA – Seattle 16
- WA – Tri-Cities Area 27, 46

Mountain

- AZ – Mesa 59
- AZ – Lake Havasu 7, 18-23
- CO – Colorado Springs 47
- CO – Estes Park 58
- SD – Rapid City 43
- UT – Sundance 44
- WY – Alpine 61

East

- CT – Mystic 58
- FL – Bal Harbour 30
- FL – Orsina 17
- FL – St. Pete Beach 59
- GA – Atlanta 14
- GA – Clayton 29
- MI – Detroit 30
- NJ – Hoboken 30
- NY – Woodstock 15
- WV – Charleston 53
- VA – Arlington 44

International

- AFRICA 50
- CANADA
- Banff-Lake Louise, Alberta 3
- Lake Louise, Alberta 48
- Niagara Falls, Ontario 42
- Winnipeg, Manitoba 52
- CARIBBEAN 31-33
- Anguilla, British West Indies 33
- Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas 54-55
- Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands 53
- MEXICO
- La Paz, Baja California Sur 51
- Puerto Vallarta 26-27



877-562-7175 ext 110

www.TheBalancedGroup.com

Call or Steve directly: Steve@TheBalancedGroup.com