



VOL 22 | ISSUE 4 | FOURTH QUARTER 2016

# Airways

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

## With a Grateful Spirit, AWA Continues to Serve



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AWA pilot Darren Lea takes delivery of the Nicaragua bound Cessna 182 from Wings Of Hope President Don Hamblen.

## “Houston, We Have a Problem.”

**I**t was the subject line of the email from the team in Guyana. Bill Patterson is a volunteer mechanic with *Wings of Hope* in St Louis, Missouri. He was in Guyana helping AWA with the annual inspection on the Cessna 182. Of course, the purpose of inspections is to find any potential or developing issues before they become serious problems. I planned my trip to



Wickwire's with the Sherman's in Shugnak.

Guyana a few days later than Bill so I could bring along any needed parts or pieces. Nik Nagy and I were in Chandler, Arizona, collecting some of the parts when the “Houston ...” email came in.

Bill's close inspection of a part of the landing gear support called “a casting” revealed a developing crack

that would require replacement before the airplane could return to service. We are familiar with this area of concern, and a close examination of this part is included in every inspection. Additionally, this casting, if even available from Cessna, is very expensive. Used castings are rare and usually require extensive searching throughout North America. Not to be deterred, we decided to check at a used parts provider who was just a few minutes away. We were astonished to hear that their inventory showed it was on the shelf. We went directly there and verified it was the correct part, and we were on our way. The next morning it was safely tucked in my luggage for the flight to Guyana. To find the part so quickly and then for it to be located within ten miles of where we were at that moment was nothing short of a miracle.

Some good news from Guyana is that we are finally getting a hangar after many years of false starts and dead ends. The Wilkerson's have prepared a site at the Mabaruma airstrip, and the pre-fabricated steel structure is about to ship out for December construction. During the annual inspection, I was very slowly negotiating the enormous potholes while towing the rickety tool trailer to the airport. Bruce Wilkerson commented that this might be the last time we have to do this. Many thanks to Bill Patterson and visiting missionary pilot-in-training, Jörg Tietz, for





Left: Bill Patterson and Jörg Tietz completing the annual inspection in Guyana. Right: Paul Voorhees and Artur Karst working on the annual inspection in Nicaragua.

their many days of hard work in the blistering hot sun getting the annual inspection done.

AWA's Nicaragua project has launched. Artur and Margarita Karst deployed early in the summer to accept the flying responsibilities from the interim pilot, TJ Stewart. Shortly after that, Dennis, Dayana, Angel and Daliana Kaboos arrived to take on the airbase operations. Norman, Nancy, Andrew, Steven, and Melanie Hansen will be arriving later in 2016. However, they have both been very busy with documents and administrative tasks for the transition to AWA operations. A new project always has a host of challenges; we ask for prayers and courage for the entire Nicaragua team.

Simultaneously, as the work was being done in Guyana, in Nicaragua, another *Wings of Hope* mechanic, Paul Voorhees, was hard at work completing the annual inspection on our Cessna 172 there. AWA recently took delivery of a Cessna 182 that will be the second airplane for Nicaragua. The *Wings of Hope* team put lots of work into the necessary modifications for mission service such as a STOL kit, folding seats, and oversize tires and brakes. We expect to deploy the 182 to Nicaragua in early 2017.

In the Philippines, the mission house is coming along. The roof is nearly complete, and a team will be arriving at the beginning of the new year to help with plumbing, electrical, floors, and cabinets. The Pathfinder Plane is being overhauled at *Mission Maintenance Services*, and we are anticipating shipping it in late 2016 or early in 2017. LaBore's have been busy traveling around and identifying isolated airstrips and communities that would benefit from missionary air support.

At Thunderbird Adventist Academy, in Scottsdale, Arizona, flight instruction is underway, under the instruction of Dina Simmons. Nik Nagy and Dina

have been working hard with some of the final permit details for the hangar, as well as developing relationships with the local flying community and the Scottsdale airport authorities.

Karen and I, along with our two boys, spent some time in Alaska this summer with Jim and Linda Kincaid, getting to see the area and villages around Kotzebue. Life north of the Arctic Circle is certainly unique and truly challenging in many ways. We had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Anthony Sherman and his family in Shungnak. It was a trying time for Anthony, as just a couple of days before our visit, a teenager had taken his life, a far too common event in these small communities. Of course, Anthony knew the young man well. As he explained the situation, it became apparent just how challenging and complicated it was. Anthony was faced with the task of visiting other young people who had shown signs that they had considered suicide; he hoped to dissuade them and give them the hope of Jesus. The Sherman's face situations like these several times every year in just their small village alone. His encouragement and counsel is so important and also weighs heavily on his courage and spirit.

Please lift up Anthony and Airen Sherman in your prayers. Our missionary workers often face emotional challenges that we sometimes overlook and with that can come discouragement. Delivering the hope of salvation is a great work but one that requires lots of support. We thank you for being part of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in hard-to-reach areas.

Jud Wickwire serves as AWA's vice-president of operations.

