



# The MAG FIELD REPORT

MISSIONARY AIR GROUP INC

Help and Hope by Air

February 2007 Issue

## All I want for Christmas...

Along with their annual holiday letter to family and friends this past December, John and Karen Ford of North Andover, MA, sent out an unusual Christmas "wish list". Instead of gifts for themselves, they enclosed a plea for donations to help the Wiles family, MAG's missionaries in Ahaus, Honduras.

To the Ford's amazement about five hundred pounds of material goods were donated through the generosity of family, friends and others who responded. It will take two to three weeks by air, land and sea for these much needed school supplies and tools for the mission base to be transported the

several thousand miles. The nearest market for Wes and Denise is four hours round trip by plane, making it difficult to obtain many basic necessities.

When asked why people were so willing to give in this way, Karen Ford replied "It's that personal connection. You can donate to the Salvation Army, but there's nothing personal about it."

John accompanied MAG President, Sean Donnelly, on a trip to Ahaus in September 2006 and was greatly impacted by the important and valuable work being accomplished through MAG and other missionary groups based in Ahaus – an impact that continues to ripple to others!

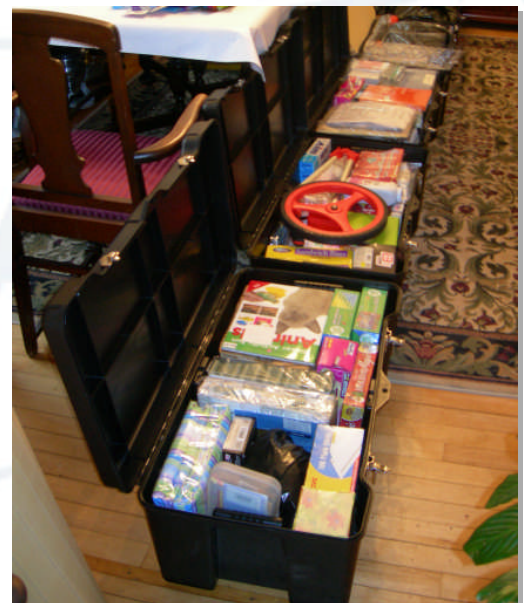


(above) MAG Volunteer Nancy Mari organizes the shipment which included everything from power tools to powdered drink mix.

(below) Shipping containers awaiting final inventory before being sealed for the long trip.

## Jungle Internet Café ?

Well...not exactly. A new satellite system has finally arrived in Ahaus and is up and running. This system now allows a direct high-speed connection to the Internet which will provide not only e-mail, but telephone communications for the first time. Doctors in Ahaus will be able to consult with specialists in the US. Pilots will have up-to-the-minute satellite weather imagery which will greatly enhance safety. Five different missionary and relief organizations, including MAG, have split the installation and operating cost of the new system. Funds are still needed to cover the installation cost.



MAG is a non-profit Christian relief organization dedicated to...

...Helping those in need, and Training those who help.

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### Current Needs:

- Color Laser Printer
- Training Aircraft Funding
- Sponsorship for a Mosquito flight student
- Volunteers

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# Help from the Buckeye State

Missionary Maintenance Services (MMS) in Coshocton, Ohio, has agreed to donate all the labor needed to perform needed repairs on one of the Cessna 206 aircraft (HR-AJW) used by MAG in Honduras.

MAG pilot Westley Wiles, accompanied by Alas de Socorro pilot George Goff, will fly the plane from Honduras on a week long trip through Mexico to the Buckeye State where it will undergo a much needed major overhaul. This will include a significant avionics upgrade as well as a thorough safety inspection. Flying in such a rugged and remote environment day after day takes a toll on these planes and while a great deal of maintenance is done in the field, more extensive repairs, upgrades and inspections are sometimes required to keep these hard working planes saving lives for years to come!

“AJW” is scheduled to arrive in Ohio in mid-March and return to service sometime in July. This represents an estimated 320 medical flights in 16 weeks that will have to be covered by the two remaining aircraft and pilots. We ask everyone to pray that the overhaul would produce no surprises that might keep the plane off the field even longer!

MMS has been servicing missionary aircraft since 1975 and offers free labor to mission organizations as part of its apprenticeship program for those preparing to serve as mission aviation maintenance specialists or pilot-mechanics. Tim Obarow, MMS Production Manager, said “We’re not only glad to help, but working on ‘front line’ mission aircraft is just the kind of experience we want for our apprentices.” Check them out at [www.mmsaviation.org](http://www.mmsaviation.org).



(above) HR-AJW ready to head north. The overhaul at MMS will allow this plane to save many more lives!

The MMS facility in Coshocton, Ohio, prepares people and planes for worldwide missionary service.



## President's Note



When MAG was being formed, it was with the clear recognition of two daunting realities. The first: people were dying in Eastern Honduras because of a shortage of pilots. The second: there are other places all over the world in the same situation, some with

planes sitting on the ground ready to deliver aid, but with the left seat empty. We addressed the first in 2006 with the placement of the Wiles family in Ahuas. The second is a larger and more systemic challenge. I have found several other small ministry organizations with the same vision [preparing pilots for the field]—but far too few to get the job done. My research into the “state of the union” of missionary aviation training revealed something startling to me—the lack of a “union”. In my last article I spoke of the spirit of cooperation experi-

enced on the field in Honduras. The task at hand is to bring that kind of functional cooperation to the entire missionary aviation community. Now as a member of IAMA (*International Association of Missionary Aviation*) MAG will address this issue concurrently with the development of its own training curriculum—now underway. The creation of a “cooperative training standard” will require time and resources, but will prove essential to *everyone's* long term goal—getting more qualified pilots out to ALL the fields that need them. Thanks for standing with us in this effort!

