

July 2026



Dear Pastors and Prayer Warriors,

We finished all the required paperwork and finally had the initial test flight! There were a few minor issues, but the airplane performed well. We had a very nice gathering for this flight with the people who physically worked on the airplane during the restoration and their families. Monte Michael, a flight instructor and former Wings for Christ pilot, is the one who made the first flight for me since I had not flown for 12 years and was very rusty with my flying skills. The hangar and house we are using here at the Wings for Christ airport have been generously provided by Wings for Christ; this has allowed us to complete this project much faster than we could have done on our own. They have been an incredible blessing to us in their support of our ministry.

One week after the first flight, I was having trouble breathing. I had been coughing since November, and it had slowly gotten worse. I checked my blood oxygen level and found that it was very low—86. That is a dangerous level, so Irene took me to get checked. It turned out to be pneumonia! I was given an antibiotic injection and prescriptions for steroids and more antibiotics. It took a few weeks to clear up; but, thank God, there was no permanent damage, and I have now made a full recovery.

Since then, I have received flight-refresher training from Monte and have knocked the rust off. As always with a project like this, there are adjustments to be made. After about 25 hours, everything is working well. Because the engine is new, it must be broken in properly. I am officially halfway through the break-in process. We plan to get 100 hours on the airplane before taking it to Ecuador. We did visit several airports in Ecuador and have two new options to help us get the airplane there and house it. The rules have been changing, and we will now have to register it in Ecuador to be able to land at jungle airstrips. This means that we will have to get a special inspection from the FAA here to de-register it and make sure the paperwork is in order before being able to register it in Ecuador. We are about to leave for AirVenture, a very large aviation convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where we will be meeting with several missionary-aviation organizations and getting input from them on this process.

Pastor Gallo's conference went very well. We were able to take them a three-camera PTZ system and an ATEM Mini-Pro broadcaster and set it up in time for the conference. During the conference, I was able to train their people how to operate the camera system. They are doing a great job with it, and it has transformed their broadcast from a single, cell phone-camera transmission into a very nice multi-camera system that can be operated by one person.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers for us. Irene and her sister have fully recovered from their bus accident, and Estela was able to come here for a visit a couple of weeks ago. We are grateful for God's protection. Please continue to pray for our safety as we finish the 100 hours of flying, get our visas for Ecuador, and finish packing and making preparations to leave for Ecuador.

God bless you,



Chris and Irene Williams

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