

Summer 2025

# JEYSON & STEPHANIE BRAUN

*Giving Wings to The Good News*

Missionaries with  
**Commission**  
TO EVERY NATION

Serving at  
**JAARS**

## An Intentional Accident.

On a recent Monday morning, training was humming along as usual in the JAARS hangar. Suddenly, mission leadership arrived with some startling news: one of our planes had crashed in the woods! Several of the missionary mechanic trainees were immediately needed to assess the situation and recover the plane.

Now, before you get concerned, this "accident" wasn't an accident at all. It was a carefully planned training exercise for our new mechanics as they prepare for the mission field. Jeyson and two other missionaries led the project.

In the days prior to the surprise, Jeyson and the other leaders had created a simulated "crash" scene by pushing one of our non-flight-worthy planes into a remote, wooded area of the JAARS property. They dug a hole, angled the plane awkwardly into the brush, shoved a tree through the window, and hacked holes in the fuselage. Since this plane is used only for hands-on maintenance training, damaging it was not only allowed...it was the whole point.



The goal was to give our trainees a real-life scenario of performing aircraft repairs in a remote setting. While this situation was staged, challenges like these do happen from time to time on the mission field, usually because of unexpected maintenance needs and, more rarely (and hopefully never), actual accidents. Missionary mechanics need to feel confident whether working in a well-equipped hangar or stranded in a remote village.



After the "crash" was announced, the trainees, Jeyson, and the other two leaders were taken by off-road vehicles to the site, prepared to stay until the repairs were complete. The group camped out in tents for five days, even with steady rain falling almost the entire time.

Each day the guys worked on the plane: moving it to a more open area to work, repairing all the damage to the frame and landing gear, and of course

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patching the holes that had been hacked into the side. They also needed to replace the engine. In a crash like this, it is assumed that the engine has internal damage so it must be replaced as a precaution.

The team had to get creative and think of a way to hoist the engine out of the plane, which is no easy task without shop equipment! So, the guys found a tree nearby, chopped it down, and built a structure to lift the old engine out safely. It wasn't fancy, but it worked! A replacement engine was flown in by helicopter (piloted by another trainee), and the group was able to get it installed right there in the woods.



Jeyson and the two other leaders cooked meals, observed the work, and stepped in to mentor when needed, but mostly stepped back intentionally to allow the trainees to take the lead. It was a great chance for the new mechanics to own the process and build confidence.



By Saturday, the job was done. The new engine was in, the body was repaired, and the plane was ready! As a final test, the engine was started up and the airplane had to taxi back to the hangar in complete airworthy condition, meaning it was technically capable of safely flying. The team packed up and headed home. They were tired and muddy, but successful in their mission. And they also had a lot of fun along the way.

Jeyson had a very rewarding time helping to lead this project. For the trainees, the week was more than just a cool experience. It was a key part of their preparation for the mission field. One mechanic shared that he had been nervous about how he'd respond to a situation like this overseas, but after this experience, he felt much more confident heading to his assignment in Papua New Guinea.

As each of these mechanics moves to the overseas mission field in the coming weeks, we're grateful to have played a part in preparing them to serve with skill and confidence in remote places; bringing the Good News of Jesus to those who have not yet heard. Thank you for your partnership that helps makes this possible!



## Summer Family News

After several summers in a row that our family has traveled a lot for ministry, we all felt the need to stay home and have a more restful summer this year. The kids and I have enjoyed countless afternoons at the JAARS pool and playdates with friends. Jeyson's mom, Iria, flew in from Brazil to visit with us and Jeyson was able to take some days off for family outings nearby, including an absolutely fantastic weekend at the beach. This summer has been low-key and restful...exactly what we needed.



Thank you very much for your partnership with our family in ministry. We are truly grateful!

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