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## **Meet a Scientologist—Omar Contreras, Conquering the Sky for Human Rights**

*With the belief that anything is possible, Omar Contreras, expeditionary pilot, human rights activist and Scientologist, persists despite the odds. His profile is one of 200 "Meet a Scientologist" videos available on the Scientology website at [www.Scientology.org](http://www.Scientology.org).*

"Work," to Scientologist Omar Contreras, is flying over the seven highest peaks of the Andes in support of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to save the environment.

The expedition is called "The Conquest of the Andes."

Contreras' two sons, Omar, 25, and Andrew, 23, are co-producing the venture. Pilots themselves, they are caring for the logistics in Caracas and Merida City, Venezuela. Two other team members, Carlos Ocanto and Luis Tato Rivas, parallel the route on the ground in an SUV. The expedition runs from October 2010 to December 2010.

The video footage and photographs will be used in a 10-episode documentary, to show the degradation of the glaciers over the last 30 years.

"The planet deserves better treatment from us," says Contreras. "If we don't start to take care of it, we will not survive."

Contreras is flying a new ultralight motorized glider called *The Kuntur*—the word for "condor" in Quechua, an indigenous language of South America. It has a 100-horsepower engine, carries seven hours worth of fuel, and is capable of a cruising speed of 103 mph.

Seeking spiritual answers his entire adult life, Contreras, 49, became a Scientologist in 2002 when he found a kindred spirit in the director of the Church of Scientology Mission of Isla Margarita, Venezuela.

"Scientology enabled me to understand my true potentials and I found a group that shares my spirit of adventure and belief in tackling the 'impossible'," says Contreras.

Studying the basic principles of Scientology has enabled him to clarify and focus on what is important to him: family, and improving his city, country, and the environment.

Committed to human rights, he is conducting his current expedition on behalf of Youth for Human Rights International in support of Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—*The Right to Move*: "the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state," and "the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

"My message is that America is a single land. The boundaries are all artificial—invisible from the air."

The book *Flying America*, a TV series, and the film *Flying South*, which won first place in the documentary category in the 2005 Festival del Cine del Yelmo in Spain, were inspired by his 10-month, 36,000-km solo expedition to 182 cities in 21 countries from New York to La Patagonia, Argentina, "to unite America through flight."

To create a better life for all South Americans he has also taken on the promotion of *The Way to Happiness*, a nonreligious moral code based entirely on common sense, where he works with Mr. Roberto León Parilli, president of Venezuela-based National Association of Users and Consumers and Colombian comedian Andres Lopez.

Contreras philosophy is simple—he believes in the ethic of hard work, persistence and never giving up.

"I believe we can change the world," he says.

View the Omar Contreras video at [www.Scientology.org](http://www.scientology.org)  
[<http://www.scientology.org/videos/category/meet-a-scientologist/meet-a-scientologist-omar-c.html>]

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*The popular "Meet a Scientologist profiles on the Church of Scientology International Video Channel at Scientology.org now total 150 broadcast-*

*quality documentary videos featuring Scientologists from diverse locations and walks of life. The personal stories are told by Scientologists who are educators, teenagers, skydivers, a golf instructor, a hip-hop dancer, IT manager, stunt pilot, mothers, fathers, dentists, photographers, actors, musicians, fashion designers, engineers, students, business owners and more.*

*A digital pioneer and leader in the online religious community, in April 2008 the Church of Scientology became the first major religion to launch its own official YouTube Video Channel, which has now been viewed by millions of visitors.*



Scientologist and expeditionary pilot Omar Contreras



View from Omar Contreras' motorized glider



Scientologist and expeditionary pilot Omar Contreras