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Only the Hand of God

Just a few months ago, Jon & Adie Leedahl were saying, “We are not sure where the Lord would have us go! There are so many opportunities for flying all over the place! Our main goal is to see the unreached reached with the gospel, so we want to go wherever the Lord sends us!”

Now they know where they are going, and they can’t get there fast enough!

In January, Jon & Adie, along with their three small boys, hope to travel to Papua New Guinea to fly for NTM tribal church planters.

To prepare for a move to PNG is a gargantuan task, usually taking a year or more. But Jon & Adie trust that if God wants them there, HE can make it all happen—and fast!

Case in point: Just recently, they needed to get the kids’ passports. They arrived at the passport office in Tucson the day before the USA government shutdown. When they turned in the applications, it was anybody’s guess how long it would take for the passports to be issued.

They paid the fees, they waited, and the hand of God moved.

“The passport office decided to issue the passports THAT DAY!”

“Within that same week, a dear friend gave towards our ministry the exact amount we needed to pay for all of the boys’ passports and fees!” related Jon & Adie.

God’s hand moved again as Jon and a crew of guys in McNeal loaded their shipping container bound for PNG. The pile of *what definitely would fit* kept decreasing while the pile of *what couldn’t fit* kept increasing. That’s not a good situation when what you take with you is all you will have for the next 4 years.

But just as God can multiply loaves and fishes, God can shrink piles of cargo!

In the end, **everything** fit into Leedahl’s shipping container!

Along with all the preparations for moving to PNG, Jon is



also finishing his advanced aviation training in McNeal, practicing aircraft landings on very short mountain airstrips.

He will add this specialized flying to his thousands of hours in crop dusting, corporate flying, and medical helicopter flights. Along with his heart to serve in mission aviation, Jon also completed training as a certified tech specialist while at the NTM Mission Training Center in Camdenton, MO.

“Jon wants to be able to support and serve missionaries in any way he can. So even though his main job will be to fly the helicopter or airplane overseas, if he needs to help fix something, he will be certified to do it!” says Adie.

“Our desire is to see the unreached reached with the saving grace of the gospel. There are missionaries on the field who have given their lives to see that the gospel is shared far and wide. **As support missionaries, we will do anything we can to help out our fellow missionaries as they preach the gospel.**”

“We want to be a part of the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19: says, ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”

The Leedahls need “everything” as they take this leap of faith. God says we have not because we ask not. So would you join us in asking God to provide all they need—physical, emotional, spiritual, financial—in the next two months? 🌍

Eye Witnesses

During 18 years of work in PNG, they had never witnessed this!

Brian (aircraft mechanic) and Arlita watched as a tribal group for the first time in their history held the Scriptures in their own language.

Four planes from three different missions brought 42 people to celebrate with the Yembiyembi tribe and their visiting tribal neighbors. The Burnhams, along with other missionaries, pastors from the USA, and PNG believers rejoiced to see the New Testament in the hands of the people.

The visitors had mud on their faces though!

"Before we all paraded up to the area prepared for the dedication, the Yembi ladies decorated each visitor's face with mud, the typical Yembi treatment when someone has been gone and has returned home," related the Burnhams.



Mud couldn't hide the joy on their faces, though, as a man read John 14:6 from the new Yembi Bible.

"A lady read the same verse from the Pidgin Bible so we outsiders, both missionaries and Papua New Guineans, could understand," the Burnhams recalled.



"Then came the giving of the Bibles. What a privilege to be a part of this celebration!"

The whole event encouraged the hearts of Brian and Arlita as they continue to serve in PNG. "God is good! We are so privileged to be a small part of what He is doing in Papua New Guinea."



NTM Aviation is very thankful for the other missions who lent a hand in flying people to this landmark celebration. However, just as NTMA is shorthanded, so are the other missions. Continue to petition God with us for His provision of personnel and a Kodiak so that we do not overtax other aviation services to support NTM's tribal church planting work. 🌍

A Kodiak airplane would insure that translation continues in PNG. Go to

<http://usa.ntm.org/projects/kodiak-for-png>

By phone: (866) 547-2460 or make your check payable to New Tribes Mission and specify for the PNG Kodiak. New Tribes Mission, 1000 East First Street, Sanford, FL 32771.

Last Link in a Long Chain—Typhoon Haiyan Relief

"At first, they can't figure out what a helicopter is doing landing on their beach!" says NTMA helicopter pilot Zach Keller.



"Then they see me taking bags off the helicopter, and they start to smile."

Zach describes himself as the "last link in an incredibly long chain of people" bringing supplies to people on small islands who have so far been overlooked in the relief effort after devastating Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippine archipelago.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) personnel trained in the logistics of disaster relief are graciously taking care of details in order to free the NTMA pilots to fly as much as possible. Josh Dalton, Joel Davis, and Brian Pruett are using our two Cessna 185's to stockpile supplies in a staging area. From there, the R-44 helicopter is loaded with tarps, supply packs, and relief workers so Zach can fly them to places where even our small airplanes cannot land. In the last five days, Zach has flown 43 flight legs, including survey flights and 3408 kg (7513 lbs.) of aid goods – mostly family food packs. Many areas are still in dire need of assistance.

Zach feels incredibly privileged to be the last man in the chain of relief, seeing the faces of the people when they realize help has arrived.

"One man came up to me, shook my hand but would not let go, and stood there looking at me while his eyes filled with tears, and he just said thank you over and over."

In addition to flying, the pilots cannot neglect the required maintenance that must be done on the planes to keep them in peak condition. To assist our pilots in their heavy schedule, John Mark Estelle, NTMA's chief pilot, has flown from McNeal to the Philippines to lend a hand.

Though the work load is relentless, one missionary working in the area summed up the heartbeat of the NTMA/MAF team: "I hope one day [the people who receive assistance] will look back on this day and know personally the God that has not forgotten them." 🌍

Earlier this year when the helicopter was getting major repairs, Larry Dye, chief mechanic from McNeal also spent time in the Philippines helping the team get the planes in top-notch working order.

With all the work that was done, the two Cessna 185's and the helicopter were totally prepared to fly cargo and people in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

"I believe God knew this was coming and got us prepared for it. It was a team effort, and because of it, we're in a good place with our aircraft to be racking up time on them," says Brian Pruett, NTMA Philippines chief pilot.

Pray for our pilots flying in new and difficult areas and for the MAF coordinators aiding them in this time of crisis.

If you would like to donate toward NTMA's part in the relief effort, go to NTM's website:

<http://usa.ntm.org/projects/haiyan-relief>