



NTM AVIATION JOURNAL

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Flying Forward!

Well . . . as long as we don't think of flying as having to be supersonic! But after a couple of years of seemingly standstill progress, any movement at all seems rather fast.

Though Asas de Socorro (ASAS), a Brazilian mission, flies in some areas, the need for more aviation service for tribal areas in Brazil came to the forefront six years ago. A plane at NTMA McNeal was designated for Brazil, but various obstacles have thwarted efforts at every turn. We rejoice finally to see forward motion!

"We are encouraged with the results of the meetings we had in Anápolis last July," says pilot **Charlie Patton**



and his wife **Ruth**. "The leadership team of Missão Novas Tribos do Brasil (MNTB) decided to import the plane under its own name," add the Pattons. "The Lord prompted a Brazilian Christian busi-

nessman, who has imported planes in the past, to offer his services to MNTB. He has lawyers working for him who have experience dealing with the importation bureaucracy. We are excited about this partnership."

Standing Still!

Despite the forward motion, Charlie is still waiting for the issuance of his Brazilian pilot's license. Pray that this paperwork issue will be resolved with no further delay.

To provide continuity, we also need a second pilot fully trained and ready to fly before 2015. Ideally, a Brazilian could bypass the usual visa, language, culture, and licensing hurdles that foreign missionaries face. A young Brazilian man is gaining aviation experience with a view toward missions, but he has not made a final

decision.

Meanwhile back in the USA, outfitting the plane is not as easy as expected. The McNeal team is working to get approval for the installation of the needed HF radio. Pray for God to smooth this snag. Pray for favor in the eyes of the officials who have the power to grant permission for the radio work.

While delays frustrate us at every turn, setbacks sometimes provide the perfect soil for growing faith.



Ruth and Charlie observe that "although our faith has always been in God and His unchanging character, it has also *partly* been in an outcome that we believed we were

here to accomplish. There is a tendency to think that if you work really hard and do all the right things, that the end result will be the intended one."

"Our faith cannot be in an expected outcome, but in God Himself!"

Now their faith is no longer divided. It is all in God alone. Teammate Joel Rich aptly summarizes: "*Our faith cannot be in an expected outcome, but in God Himself!* While we often don't understand what He is doing, we know that He is good! Although His timing is not the same as ours, He is still in control." ♦

What does NTMA Brazil need?

- **Lots of prayer!** No amount of money will solve the paperwork tangles for the radio work and other obstacles that arise. Only GOD can work out the details to export this plane to Brazil and get the flight program up and running. He wants us to ask Him for what we need, so **would you pray for God to work in His way and His time?** Thanks!
- We need funds to cover work already done on the plane plus funds for additional non-destructive testing, radio supplies, inspections, and finishing of the floor. And of course export and customs.

To let us know you are praying or to send a donation for Brazil, write to **NTM Aviation, 3870 W Volunteer St. McNeal, AZ 85617. Designate it for Brazil.**

As aircraft mechanic Joel Rich waits for NTMA's plane to be imported into Brazil, he is working for a Brazilian mission, *Asas de Socorro (ASAS)*, as an aircraft maintenance specialist. He and his wife Janelle and their four children are . . .

Already a Part By Joel Rich



Brazilian NTM missionaries **Elton and Lourdes** have worked among the Deni tribe for many years; however, this year witnessed the culmination of all

their work. For months, the missionaries taught twice a day, chronologically through the Scriptures, emphasizing themes like God's loving character, sin and its consequences, and the importance of a sacrifice.

Little by little, the Deni people's eyes were opened, and as the teacher presented Christ's death, burial and resurrection, they began to smile. A number of them gave a testimony of their faith in Christ for Salvation: "God's Word came first to the Jews . . . then to you Brazilians, and now it is coming to us, and *we understand because it is in our language.*"

Praise the Lord! This is why we are here! We feel a special connection to this work because Elton and Lourdes are our next-door neighbors while they are out of the village. When they travel to the tribe, it will be an ASAS airplane that takes them. We are honored to be a part of the team bringing the Gospel to people like the Deni for the first time ever in their heart language! Please pray with us as Elton and Lourdes return to the village and begin discipling the Deni believers! ♦

Meet the Deni

By Janelle Rich

The other morning I was surprised by some unexpected visitors on our porch: two Deni women with several of their children! A group of eight of these tribal people made the two-week boat trip from their village to the city of Manaus and were staying here on the mission property. I gathered our



kids and we went out to make friends. In spite of the language barrier, it was fun to try to interact and see the kids play together. What an exciting way to connect with the very tribal people that we pray for and hope to serve!

These people were able to get their boat, and headed home last week. Unfortunately, just a couple of days later their "new" boat broke down and they were stranded in a tiny river community. To make matters worse, one of the babies who had been fighting pneumonia while they were here had a relapse, far from quality medical help.

Meanwhile Elton and Lourdes, our neighbors, had been planning their return to the tribal village. News from there was not encouraging either: A big windstorm had blown much of the roof off their house. Then one of the villagers had gotten drunk, wandered down to the river and drowned. This was the situation when Elton returned last week, leaving Lourdes here to recuperate from a terrible cough and to help their son, who is going through some personal difficulties.

Why do we share all these things with you? These are the day-to-day challenges faced by the tribal church planters here. Please continue to pray for their strength, wisdom, and encouragement! Also pray for the Lord to open the doors for us to serve them through aviation! ♦

NTMA Pioneer Aviator With the Lord

As of December 28, 2013, pioneer NTM missionary aviator and visionary **Lee German** is rejoicing in Heaven with the Filipino tribal believers that he had a part in reaching. The work that Lee did, however, actually reverberated around the globe.

After traveling to the Philippines with his wife Leola in the mid-1950's, Lee used small boats on the high seas to supply NTM

missionaries working among island tribes. Thinking there had to be a *better way*, Lee learned to fly during furlough in 1958. After a Nebraska farmer bought him a brand new Piper Cub, Lee crated it along with spare parts and shipped it to the

Philippines.

Lee faithfully served the tribal teams in the Philippines with this little aircraft, adding more planes and pilots as needed. But harrowing experiences, a lack of standardized training for new pilots and mechanics, no reliable system of technical support, and difficulty in procuring spare parts convinced Lee that there again had to be a *better way*. Considering Lee's ideas, New Tribes Mission concurred and organized a mission flight department.

In 1971, Lee became the director of NTM's flight department. He wrote, "Our objective is to make flight programs available to as many of our fields as need this kind of help. This will include a training base in the States where we can give prospective missionary pilots the practical training they need in preparation for what faces them on the field."

Lee German reached his objective. Since those early days, countless NTM Aviation flights have carried news of the Way, the Truth, and the Life—the *BEST way*—to countless people in ten different countries around the world. ♦

