

NTM Aviation Journal

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As a result of your partnership, things are happening in the world of missionary aviation!

COMPLETE FLEET:

THREE KODIAKS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA!

“#Praising the Lord” echoed around NTM Aviation headquarters in Arizona on September 21, 2015. The heavy clouds and drenching rain lifted at just the right moment. A plane’s landing lights twinkled closer as it approached low for a celebratory pass, then went around for a landing. Kodiak #3 for Papua New Guinea had arrived!

Two years earlier, NTM aviation had asked God to do what only He could do — provide Kodiaks to replace the aging fleet of 206’s and the King Air C90 in Papua New Guinea.

With only 10% of the funds needed to purchase the first Kodiak, NTM Aviation took a leap of faith. They sent pilot Jon Leedahl to PNG to start training with JAARS/SIL in their Kodiaks. Once proficient, Jon would instruct the other NTM Aviation pilots — in the Kodiak that God would surely provide.

The very next month, NTM Aviation’s Executive Director Phil Koop learned that generous donors had given the first Kodiak for PNG. Just three months later, donors gave a second Kodiak.

Then after only seven months of training, Jon Leedahl suffered a near-fatal road accident in PNG, resulting in the amputation of his right leg. His days in the Kodiak seemed over.

But NTM Aviation was undaunted. God had obviously honored their “leap of faith” by providing two Kodiaks. So they regrouped with another plan for training pilots to fly the new airplanes.

And not long after, God astounded everyone again by providing yet another Kodiak.

On that rainy September day in Arizona, Kodiak #3 taxied up to the NTM Aviation hangar. As cameras flashed and the crowd clapped, out stepped Jon Leedahl! Just eleven months after his devastating accident, he had flown a Kodiak again. And Lord willing, by next year, he will again be one of the pilots flying a Kodiak in PNG.



Jon & Adie Leedahl (r.) with pilot-in-command Daren (and Cindy) Spence after the flight. Photo by Josh Dalton.

Let us know if you are praying for all three Kodiaks to start their service to missionaries planting churches in remote areas of Papua New Guinea. To help get the remaining Kodiaks to PNG, go to:

<https://usa.ntm.org/projects/kodiak2-for-png>

Or use the enclosed reply form and envelope to send your gift, designated for the Kodiaks, to New Tribes Mission, 1000 East First Street, Sanford, FL. Thank you!

 **NTM
Aviation**

Start to Finish: Seeing Results

Don't you just love seeing results after a long, long stretch of commitment? After 20 years of service, pilot John Meerstra has a long-term view of aviation service, and he wants you to "see your important part in this chain of support."

John started flying with NTM Aviation in Papua New Guinea in 1994. It's been far more than just a job for John. He and his wife Joyce, along with their two children, are passionate about sustaining the Bible translation teams working in the bush. They are determined to serve, whether or not they ever see glowing results.

But fruit does come.

Travel with John on a couple jungle trips to see some of the outcomes.

On April 15, 2015, John takes his family along with him. After two hours in the plane, they spend another two hours in a boat, finally arriving at the Waxe tribe. Today, they are celebrating "the completed New Testament in their hands, for their eyes to read and in their own language."

"This is why [I] fly an airplane here!" emphasizes John. "Many of the people in this little jungle hamlet now clearly understand and claim Christ's name alone for



their forgiveness of sins. The Lord is building His Church among the Waxe."

Next fly with John on May 5, 2015, to the Malaumanda tribe. Today John is representing all of NTM Aviation at the New Testament dedication festival. He's been a pilot for this church planting team since near the beginning of their outreach 20 years ago. In a touching moment during the ceremony, one of the translators gives John two New Testaments. In turn, John presents the books to a believing Malaumanda man and his wife.

"It was a special day and extra special for John," writes Joyce. "Many of the tribal people have become our friends and the missionaries are kind of like family."

Now, because of Christ, these tribal believers are family. To John. To his family. To you. To all believers.

As you participate with NTM Aviation, you are seeing the fruit of your labor too. Unreached people like the Waxe and the Malaumanda are hearing God's Word and believing. Thanks for being a part.

Your gifts and your prayers are helping make God's Word come alive in the lives of people across the globe!

Thank you for your partnership!

Brazil launches flights – and just in time!

“After a two-day flight over a sea of green jungle PT-MNT touched down in the rain in Cruzeiro do Sul,” wrote pilot’s wife Ruth Patton. The Cessna 206’s landing concluded a seven-year faith-testing journey, full of twists, turns and delays. But God had not forgotten the people of Brazil’s Acre region and the missionaries who serve them.

Pilots from missions serving in other regions of Brazil came to help get the plane in operation.

One of its first flights carried language consultants to missionaries Jevon and Danica Rich.

“The availability of consultants -- the orientation, training, direction, and spiritual encouragement that they provide when they come -- is one of the biggest reasons we are so thankful for the plane,” says Danica.

The Riches moved into this remote location in April 2014 when a plane from another mission was free to come to the area. Since then, they’ve had to hike out at least once with their three small children — a day on the river, two days on the trails with an overnight in a makeshift jungle hut, then another day on the river.

Now with the plane in the region, grueling trips can be a

thing of the past. And a good thing too!

Just a couple of weeks after the plane arrived, a village pet tapir savagely attacked Jevon and Danica, knocking them down and biting them repeatedly. Then it ran off and bit three village men.

Alerted to the emergency, one of the pilots who had just visited dropped everything to travel back and do a medevac flight. Mechanic Joel Rich readied the plane and fueled it. Christian medical workers rounded up scarce rabies vaccine. Within the 72-hour window for the first round of shots, the bite victims arrived in town.

What a relief! For the first time in years, emergency help is available.

Supplies can arrive. Consultants can visit. The plane will sustain missionaries for the long haul of bringing people to Christ and leading them to maturity.

Will you join us in prayer for a permanent pilot to live in Cruzeiro do Sul? Joel Rich is on location to maintain the plane, but we are asking God for a full-time person to do the flying. For now, pilots on loan from other regions will travel to Cruzeiro do Sul at intervals to make scheduled flights.

Join the Flight Crew to make sure the plane can keep flying. And let us know you are praying!

<https://usa.ntm.org/flight-crew>



Photo by Daren Spence

First Kodiak Arrives!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RECEIVES LONG-AWAITED PLANE!

Kodiak #1 landed in Papua New Guinea July 22, 2015. Despite cloudy weather, hearts rejoiced with singing and prayers for this provision of God.

“What a great day for the people of Papua New Guinea,” said field leader Keith Copley. “This plane will be a huge asset in Bible translation, medical help, literacy, and all that goes into seeing a church grow to maturity.”

After its arrival, the aviation team worked relentlessly to complete inspections and operating manuals required for the plane to get its PNG airworthiness certificate. The plane should be in operation in early 2016.

Pray for the Kodiak to serve well in PNG. To help Kodiaks #2 and #3 arrive in PNG, go to:

<https://usa.ntm.org/projects/kodiak2-for-png>



Neighbors joined the festivities for the arrival of Kodiak #1. Photo by Matthias Mueller.

R66: A HELICOPTER FOR THE DIFFICULT PLACES

Nearly every day, pilots Brian Pruett and Josh Dalton put a Robinson R44 helicopter through its paces in the skies above aviation headquarters in McNeal, AZ. The R44, rebuilt for use in the Philippines, is nearing the end of its test flights. Brian and Josh will use it to serve missionaries on the island of Mindanao, Philippines — but only until a better-suited R66 is purchased and

shipped to replace it. Church planting teams are counting on the R66’s increased capabilities to expand outreach to people in isolated and nomadic villages still waiting to hear God’s Word. Not only that, but the R66 will expand medical and relief services to villagers impacted by yearly typhoons and ever-present — but still unmet — health needs. Missionaries need the R66 to reach villages never before accessed.

To help go to <https://usa.ntm.org/projects/philippines-helicopter>



Photo courtesy of Zach Keller

Flying an R44, Zach Keller brought food to these isolated mountain villagers during Typhoon Koppu in October 2015 .



Your vote counted!

NTM Aviation garnered a \$4,000 grant that will help make possible the purchase of an R66 helicopter to serve the people of the Philippines still waiting to hear the Gospel. Thanks for your vote!