

# NTM Aviation Journal

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NTM AVIATION MEDIA TEAM  
Linda Bohling, Ellen Koop  
Wonita Werley  
TELEPHONE (520) 642-9280  
WEBSITE NTMAVIATION.ORG

## Celebration of a Promise Kept

### KODIAK #3 REACHES DESTINATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA!

You know that wonderful feeling of a promise kept? Then celebrate with us! The arrival of Kodiak #3 — the third and final one — in Papua New Guinea marks the fulfillment of a plan NTM Aviation set in motion three years ago.

But first, give thanks to God, because without His faithfulness, none of the three Kodiaks in PNG would have been possible. It would not have been possible without those who first envisioned, then built the Kodiak just for missions. It would not have been possible without a multitude of partners over the years who had the heart and vision to pray fervently and give generously to see the goal realized.

Three years ago, NTM Aviation leaders made a commitment to move forward on the plan to replace the aging Cessna 206's and the King Air

C90 with three Kodiaks - newer and more efficient aircraft. Having only Kodiaks would focus the strength of our aviation team on three rather than six aircraft.

It was a leap of faith in many ways. But with confidence in God's power and with determination to reach the world with the gospel, NTM Aviation pressed forward. The prayers and financial participation of God's people bolstered our resolve. Their encouragement kept the NTM Aviation home staff energized to press on in procuring the planes and outfitting them to the exact configurations needed in PNG.

Now today, three years later, the Kodiaks are on location, serving tribal church planting teams.

The Kodiak's very first jungle landing took it to the village of

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



Amdu, where missionaries Bart and Emily Allen are still in language and culture learning.

“We have no other way to get in and out and get supplies other than by plane,” says Emily. Usually with the Cessna 206, it would take a couple of flights. And now with the Kodiak, the Allens, their 4 boys, and all their supplies can fly in at the same time. “It is a big blessing!” says Emily.

You can help keep Kodiaks flying safely to serve hundreds of missionary families in PNG.

Go to <https://usa.ntm.org/projects/kodiak2-for-png> or use the enclosed response card to indicate that you will pray or give.



Photo by Ryan Farran

## Former Headhunters Get Medical Help

*“From headhunters, they are now soul hunters.” That’s how Filipino missionary Rene Tanjusay characterizes the Ilongot tribal people of the Philippines.*

Before NTM sent its first missionary to them, the Ilongot were well-known killers. But in 1954, a Filipino missionary went to work among them, followed by an American. From that small beginning, 23 groups of Ilongot believers reach out to those around them.

Last year, church leaders in one Ilongot village began asking Mr. Tanjusay whether he could assist in arranging for a medical team to come help them. Many adults and children needed health attention. But since their location has no road access, getting aid was difficult. It would take about a day to hike out – a difficult option for small children and the elderly. Even if they could get to the lowlands, the medical costs would be out of their range.

The idea of a visiting medical team suited the villagers. However, for a team to hike in with medicines and dental equipment was not feasible.

Mr. Tanjusay talked with NTM Aviation to see if the medical team could get transportation by



Photo by Rene Tanjusay

helicopter to Keyet. Sure enough, they could help.

A doctor, a dentist, an optometrist, four nurses, a missionary, and five helpers made up the team. Pilot Zach Keller shuttled them into the village on the appointed day. The medical personnel set up their clinic in the church meeting house and went to work. They served 143 people with medical needs, 43 with dental problems, and 47 with optical issues.

“The people were so blessed and happy that we could use the helicopter for the medical mission” said Rene. One of the church elders commented on how much the medical personnel helped the village. And because of generous flight sponsors, they can look forward to another visit in the future.

You can help assure that growing churches get the support they need to stay vibrant so they can reach out to others.

Use the response card to tell us you are praying for flight sponsorship, or support flights by becoming a member of Flight Crew. You can request more information by checking the appropriate box on the card.

# Kodiak Lands in Dinangat:

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

“For the first time — last week our brand new KODIAK airplane came into Dinangat!! Thank you Lord for your provision!!” wrote missionaries Ralf & Ellie Schlegel in a Facebook post in March of 2016.

The Dinangat tribal believers didn't have Facebook to express their joy. Instead, when the Kodiak landed, they presented a bilum — woven string bag — of vegetables to pilots John Mark Estelle and John Meerstra.

The Dinangat people were justifiably joyful. Just eight years ago, they were confused, despairing, hopeless unbelievers. Now many of them are confident believers with a sure foundation.

Can you picture how such a remarkable transformation happened? In 2003 the Dinangat team moved into this isolated village. They learned the complicated language and culture. Then they created an alphabet, produced literacy materials, and taught these illiterate people to read and write.

When their level of language was sufficient, they translated Scripture and wrote culturally understandable Bible lessons. Finally, they taught God's message starting from Creation and finishing with Christ's death and resurrection.

And — impossible as it seems — they did all that initial work in five years! How could they have put in the massive amount of time needed, all the while

living and raising their families in a primitive, isolated, nearly inaccessible jungle setting?

Without God's provision of flight service, it wouldn't have happened. During those long hard years of learning and teaching, NTM Aviation's Cessna 206 was the supply bridge in the sky. It was the support line to bring everything the team needed to keep them on task.

Now the supply line job is handed off to the Kodiak — just when it seems the mission is accomplished among the Dinangat.

But is it “mission accomplished”? In many ways, it is “mission just beginning.” The Dinangat team will keep working to equip the believers with thorough teaching and a New Testament in their language. The job

will not be done until a thriving church is reaching out to the next village and the next tribe.

To that end, the missionaries recently appointed the very first elders of the Dinangat church — faithful men who will shepherd the believers as they grow, teach others, and reach out to other villages.

With your participation, NTM Aviation aircraft can keep supply lines going until thriving churches are established among all inaccessible people groups.

To keep flights consistent, you can commit to giving as a Flight Crew member. Check the box on the response card for more information, or go to: <https://usa.ntm.org/flight-crew>



Photo by Ralf Schlegel

## The Wait Is Over:

### R44 FLYING ON MINDANAO ISLAND

How many times has this happened to you? You plan a flight, buy your tickets, rearrange your work schedule, pack your bags, clean up the kitchen, secure the house, drive to the airport and then you wait. The flight is canceled for weather.

Now imagine your remote jungle location hasn't had a flight for 4 months. Flight day finally comes, and you're totally packed up and ready. But the weather closes in — day after day after day. It happened earlier this year to Ron and Michelle Jennings. Their attitude? “[W]e still have food and can just keep going with our work.”

Waiting was the name of the game. Without a helicopter on Mindanao Island, church planting teams deep in the mountainous region could never be sure they'd get a flight. They could only hope their supplies would last until the helicopter from northern Luzon could come over islands and ocean to do some flights.

So, you can imagine the gladness when a new R44 arrived at the docks April 8th — and even arrived on time!

From the moment they had clearance to open the shipping container, it took pilot/mechanics Josh Dalton and Brian Pruett just three days to assemble the helicopter. They even ran the engine. But they couldn't fly it without the right papers, and each paper seemed to depend on the five others before it.



But God was at work! He cut through complicated paperwork in surprising ways, and in just 2 months, the helicopter was flying.

The very first ministry flight carried three young tribal men who are working on a translation. “So far I haven't flown a white missionary in the [R44]!” wrote pilot Brian Pruett after the first month of flying. “It's all been tribal translation assistants and medical flights.”

That's what the R44 is for — to give not just westerners but nationals and tribal people the flight service they need to plant thriving churches in every people group on Mindanao. “It's amazing what a little funding and some amazing tools have done to encourage folks here and sustain ministries!” adds Brian.

You can be a part of providing affordable flights for church planting teams. Sign up for Flight Crew information on the enclosed response card or go to <https://usa.ntm.org/flight-crew>.

#### BREAKING NEWS:

*Through the generosity of donors and through the prayers of God's people, NTM Aviation has just purchased an R66 helicopter for the Philippines. Expanding beyond the reach of the R44, the R66 will advance the goal of carrying missionaries anywhere they need to go, any time they need to go there, safely and efficiently. The R66 gives hope to the 50,000 Manobo — and 14 other groups on Mindanao — who still need to hear the Gospel.*

**YOU CAN HELP GET THE R66 TO THE PHILIPPINES. GO TO [HTTPS://USA.NTM.ORG/PROJECTS/PHILIPPINES-HELICOPTER](https://usa.ntm.org/projects/philippines-helicopter) OR USE THE ENCLOSED RESPONSE CARD.**