

NTM Aviation Journal

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Gathering to Disperse

MARIAMA BELIEVERS PLAN TO SHARE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

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



Thirteen years ago, NTM Aviation pilot Randy Smyth made the first landing on the newly completed Mariama airstrip.

Upwards of 400 people from surrounding Mariama villages had worked four months by hand to complete it. God's Talk was coming to them – but their thoughts were really on all the material possessions the airplane would bring.

Those villagers digging with hand tools in 2003 couldn't have fathomed the eternal impact their work would have.

GATHERING

Fast forward to the weekend of October 5, 2016. Believers from eight tribal churches within a 30-mile radius of the Mariama airstrip –

isolated from each other by swamps, rivers, peaks and distinctly different languages — gathered in Mariama for a leadership conference.

The people themselves organized it — and they were the teachers. "It was awesome to see the fruit from all the missionaries over the past 30 years," said pilot Ryan Farran, who brought some people in the Kodiak airplane. Others hiked or came by motor canoe.

"It was a great time for all present as they delved into what God says to leaders from the book of Titus," wrote Brian Burnham, mechanic specialist, who has supported these eight works over the years. "The leaders were exhorted to stand strong in the Lord and to teach God's Word to the people in their churches."

DISPERSING

But the impact won't stop with those eight churches. The conference also included times "to strategize on how to reach the surrounding areas with the Gospel!" says pilot Josh Verdonck. Just as someone had brought the Good News to them, these believers plan to take God's Word to other tribes "around the next bend and around the next mountain," said Ryan Farran.

"What is displayed in this picture is nothing less than miraculous. Only God is able to do this. He is relentlessly building His church, gathering people from every tribe, tongue and nation," says veteran missionary Paul Wyton. What a privilege we all have to be a part!



Photo by Ryan Farran

Typhoon Opens Opportunity for Outreach

October 19, super typhoon Haima ripped through Luzon Island, Philippines, respecting no one.

Despite his own losses, NTM Aviation pilot Zach Keller opened the twisted hangar doors the day after the storm, loaded the R44 with supplies, and headed out for devastated villages. His own house would have to wait.

The coastal village of Valley Cove was especially hard hit. All but three homes were damaged, and many were completely gone. But these very new believers were about to see God’s care for them as Zach unloaded nails, tarps, rope and gasoline for the chainsaw. They quickly popped up simple homes – topped with tarps instead of thatch.



Photo by Jared Major

But though the weather had been bad, “the ocean was worse,” wrote Zach’s wife Jane.

“The [boat] crew nearly threw all the construction supplies overboard to save themselves from sinking,” wrote pilot Brian Pruett. After several attempts, the crew turned back, with their lives and the supplies intact.



Photo by Zach Keller

The helicopter was their only option.

It was no small feat for pilot Zach Keller to wrangle long rolls of roofing material into a small R44. But one load at a time, he flew the materials to Valley Cove in time for a work crew to nail it on.

Thanks to many generous donors who had a part in providing funds so relief could happen in a timely way. Villages like Valley Cove — and even neighboring villages who haven’t heard the Gospel yet — saw God’s hand at work.



Photo by Jared Major

Church planters Don & Char Epp’s house required more intensive fixes. Wind ripped off roofing, allowing salt water and sand to ruin electrical systems and equipment so essential for language learning, translation, and teaching.

Hoping to cut costs, Don and Char planned to have the bulk of supplies brought in by boat.

To help NTM Aviation have funds on hand for the next disaster, go to <http://ntm-aviation.org/projects/disaster-relief-emergency-fund>.

Tribal Missionaries Not Waiting

HELICOPTER HELPS WANA REACH THEIR OWN PEOPLE

Not that many years ago, the Wana were ordinary tribal people. They were just learning that the Creator God was greater than all the spirits they tried to appease every moment of their lives.

Now, the Creator God is their Savior, and He is the conqueror of all the spirits.

That's something they want all the people of their ethnic group to know. And they are not waiting around for foreigners to come and do the job. It's their people – it's their passion.

So Pak Sofian and his family, along with two other young families of the Wana tribe are now missionaries to the remote and isolated "Oak Tree" village in their own people group. Trained by NTM and their local Wana church, these three families will start at the beginning of the story and bring the Good News of the true God.

With no promised support, the three families are trusting God for daily sustenance. But their sending church is behind them, helping them build functional houses and constructing a dugout canoe with outriggers to give them a basic means of transportation. Other fellow believers are taking care of their school-age children.

"It is exciting to see the Wana church send their own missionaries to reach this little village with the Gospel," says helicopter pilot Steffan Pyle.

Thanks to gifts from caring believers around the world, NTM Aviation can affordably fly food and

supplies to sustain these three families in Oak Tree. Recently, Steffan also flew in a motor for the team's outrigger canoe. With that, they can make supply runs between helicopter flights.

"They are there for the long term -- to see a church functioning on its own," says Ed Casteel, pioneer missionary to the Wana.

And God is at work! "A number of families [in Oak Tree] have already expressed an interest in studying the Word!" says Ed. He expects formal teaching to begin soon.

Right where you are, you can help reach a village like Oak Tree. With your help to provide aviation support, Pak Sofian and his team can devote their full time to ministry.

To Sponsor flights go to <http://ntm-aviation.org/projects/missionary-flight-sponsorship>



Above: Pak Sofian (at left) welcomes the helicopter bringing church leaders to encourage the team.

Below: Pak Sofian and his family with their new home under construction.



Photo by Steffan Pyle

Blue News — Gold News!

R66 HELICOPTERS ARE GAME CHANGERS

Nathan and Megan Ingvoldstad work on an island — a really small one. With no space for a good airstrip, they travel hours by boat from the mainland. But due to Megan’s health difficulties, the Ingvoldstads weren’t sure they could continue to live on such a lonely island, so far from emergency medical help.

Philip and Vina LeRoux and their three children work on an even more far-flung island. Best-case



Photo by John Martin

The mountains of the Philippines pose as much challenge as the islands. High peaks and valleys hide multiplied pockets of people like the Manobo who have no hope of ever having an airstrip. How will missionaries — even Manobo believers — reach them?

“I don’t think anyone can comprehend the help [the helicopter] is to us,” says Philip Le Roux. “We thank the Lord each time we see [it] land.”

“Words cannot express my gratitude,” says Nathan Ingvoldstad, confident that his family will have a medical lifeline as they minister.

Would you pray that this blue R66 quickly gets through all its paces: final outfitting, export paperwork disassembly, crating, shipping — and the reverse process on the other end! God is not willing that the people scattered on the islands and hidden in the mountains of the southern Philippines live and die without Jesus.



Photo by John Martin

John Mark Estelle and Brett Randolph learning the systems to instruct the other pilots.

scenario is hours of island hopping on small ferry boats, punctuated by days of waiting for good weather. The motion sickness alone would challenge the hardest. “We always have anxiety until we again think of the cost He paid for us on the cross,” says Philip, in his South African accent.

A turbine helicopter, agile and fleet, could cover islands and mountains alike. You prayed. You gave, and God provided. Last July, some generous donors gave a beautiful blue R66 turbine helicopter for the Philippines.

And then, before we could even ask God, donors gave a gold R66 so our pilots could begin immediate training while the blue one was prepared for shipping to the field.

By March, we are hoping that the blue R66 will be in the Philippines, serving the Ingvoldstads, the Le Roux, the Manobo believers, as well as other church planters.

You can help facilitate the R66’s journey to ministry!
Go to <http://ntm-aviation.org/projects/philippines-r66-helicopter> – or use the enclosed Response card.