



# JOURNAL

ethnos360aviation.org

God's Word is reaching isolated people groups around the world, and Ethnos360 Aviation is there to help.

## BEYOND THANKS

### God did it!

He provided an R66 helicopter for Brazil!

On October 30, 2019, a specially-trained pilot began the flight of the R66 from Calgary, Alberta, to Brazil to serve church planting teams on the fringes of the Amazon basin.

**Did you wonder if it would ever really happen? So did we! But God was working it all out, stretching our faith and patience in the process.**

Thank you for letting God work through your constant prayers and your faithful, sacrificial generosity! He provided not only the R66 helicopter but also the funds to get it into service, as well as funds for land development, hangar construction, and future Brazilian pilot training.

### We can't say *thank you* enough.

Our pilot, Jeremiah Diedrich, already on location in Brazil, thanks you too! He is looking forward to flying into twenty-plus villages to facilitate a Scripture translation project – and that's just in one people group!

Other church planting teams are already strategizing with the helicopter for the coming years. With a reliable supply and transportation line, they can finally stay for extended periods in the village. And they can invite consultants to come and help them with difficult language, culture and translation.

They'll feel safer too. "Of course, we trust our good and sovereign God to protect all of our teams in their work," says Jeremiah. "But coming from the perspective of this pilot, I will feel so much better when there is a helicopter here that I can jump in and go get them or take them what they need if (and when) problems arise."

This journey to having an R66 helicopter in Brazil has taken so much longer than we thought. But, like Jeremiah, we trust our "good and sovereign God" for His perfect plan.

Brazil program manager Joel Rich met the helicopter in Kansas on the second day of its journey. He has been working tirelessly for several years to see this aircraft a reality. "The helicopter will be a game-changer for our church planters, allowing them to access areas where the gospel has never been."

Joel understands what an asset the helicopter will be, having grown up in one of the very villages that the aircraft will serve. He knows the helicopter will speak volumes to the missionaries of how the Body of Christ



Joel (r.) and the ferry pilot with the Brazil R66. photo by Janelle Rich

is helping them establish thriving churches in such isolated locations.

"Besides [the helicopter] meeting their physical needs, just knowing that there are people like you behind them is a huge encouragement, motivation, and accountability factor."

We look forward to the R66's first ministry flights by the end of the year. Church planting teams have waited long enough to have a workable transportation system to undergird them.

Thanks to all of you who have prayed and given to see the Brazil R66 a reality — and the project fully funded. Now let's rejoice together and praise God as the helicopter serves to bring unreached people groups to Himself.

# ONE FLIGHT LIGHTS A LITTLE FIRE

Fifty years ago, when Ethnos360 Aviation began as NTM Aviation, young Paul Dye (who later became one of our pilots) was contacting a primitive and feared tribal group deep in the rainforest of South America. Though feared by outsiders, this group lived in constant dread of the spirits and of death.

After several years, despite many setbacks, missionaries established a presence in Lizard Village and presented the Creation to Christ lessons. More than one hundred villagers believed in Jesus. But culturally, they lacked confidence to share their newfound faith with others.

Then a man named Little Fire moved into Lizard Village. He begged to hear the teaching. But missionary Steve Bove ('Big Steve') was knee-deep in discipling and translation. And missionary Steve Sanford ('Little Steve') was not yet sufficiently fluent in the language.

Little Fire was persistent, though, and Big Steve finally relented. He had a plan. He'd teach Little Fire and his wife, inviting believers to help him. Maybe they'd catch the fire of sharing God's truth.

Just a few weeks into the teaching, Little Fire fell ill. His fever spiked at 108 degrees. Nothing helped. He was going downhill fast.

Days later, Little Steve stood helplessly by in the city hospital as he watched Little Fire slip toward death. Without an adequate grasp of the language, he couldn't tell Little Fire the rest of the story. Big Steve could, but he was back in the jungle village — and it was Sunday. No prospect of a flight.

Desperate, Little Steve radioed Big Steve. By God's amazing orchestration, one of our pilots flying overhead broke into the conversation. He would stop by the village and pick up Big Steve!

That afternoon, as Little Fire maintained laser focus, Big Steve unfolded God's plan. After the story of Abraham and Isaac, Little Fire cried out, "God help! I have no ram if you don't give me one!" Then, unveiling God's exquisite mercy, Big Steve introduced Little Fire to the Lamb that takes away sin.

That night the city power went out, Little Fire's life support failed, and he met the Lamb face to face.

The believers rejoiced that Little Fire was with Jesus.

But they also knew that his wife wasn't a believer yet. They urged Big Steve to keep teaching her. But he refused! "You teach her," he said. Lit by the fire of Little Fire's death, five trained men took over the teaching. And Little Fire's wife believed.

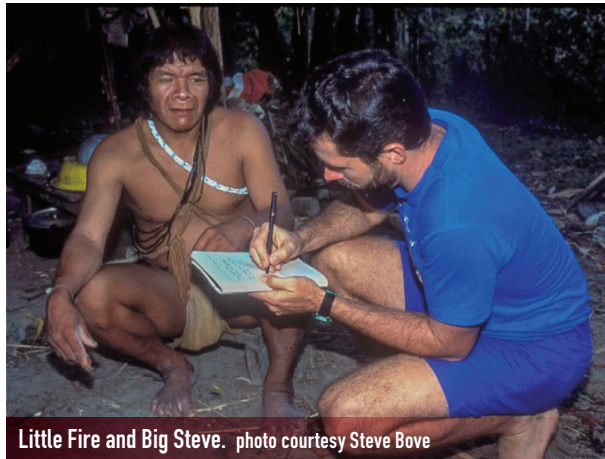
The fire kept spreading. A group of fifty tribes people arrived from another village. "You taught Little Fire's wife," said Big Steve. "You can teach these people." All fifty believed. Nothing could stop this fire now. The believers prayed and strategized.

**"First, we'll reach out to the little villages around us and teach them." By doing that, they hoped to win the friendship of a faraway village that strongly opposed the gospel.**

Not long ago, the opposing village finally asked for Bible teachers. Five trained families

packed up and moved there. The first week, about forty came to hear. The second week, one hundred. Three months later, the fire ignited!

From first contact fifty years ago, to one miraculous God-ordained flight, the fire burns to this very day! You yourself are fanning the fires of the gospel by your involvement in undergirding Ethnos360 Aviation. Every single flight you support brings Christ to people who need to hear. Thank you!



Little Fire and Big Steve. photo courtesy Steve Bove



Medevac for Little Fire. photo courtesy Steve Bove

## A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

It's a lonely little island, a mere dot in the Philippine archipelago. Easy to miss. A typhoon could wipe it bare. And one almost did — Typhoon Haiyan, 2013. The houses of the Agutaynen people were flattened. Their seaweed farms, moored to ropes in the shallows, ripped out like so many weeds and became flotsam in a raging sea. Not much was left but their cooking pots. And no one paid attention. So many more people needed help in the ravaged cities of the mainland.

But one little Ethnos360 Aviation R44 helicopter beat along above the insulted ocean to land on the little beach bringing food and supplies.

Someone did care! Missionaries Philip and Vina le Roux, who had just arrived two months before, had called for help.

### And the little R44 helicopter that came proved these missionaries cared.

As food filled their bellies, the people started realizing they could trust and respect the le Roux.

Just as the Agutaynen people had owed a debt of gratitude to another belief system in the past — one that had never come through with any hope — now they felt gratitude to these missionaries.

Relationships began to flourish as the people saw the heart of the le Roux. Gradually, the Agutaynens started to understand that the missionaries were bringing a message promising something beyond this messy world where the islanders slugged out

an isolated and sometimes meaningless existence.

Last year, when the le Roux had learned the language well enough, they started teaching from the Bible — beginning with the origin of the world and of life itself.

Bible stories that the islanders

had heard in fragments — sometimes fractured and twisted — became clear and had a point: God the Creator was making a Way to restore the relationship broken by sin.

After ten months of teaching, through rain and typhoons — and competing with neighbourhood idol worship parties, sickness, equipment breakdowns and setbacks — the final lesson put it all together. The God who loved them provided the way for them to come back into his family. Seventy-three souls were born into the Kingdom of God!

The Agutaynen people now owe gratitude to God alone. And we at Ethnos360 Aviation thank you who enable us to serve the church planting team as they bring Christ to this island.



Agutaynen youth show their belief by pinning their names on a cross. photo by Philip & Vina le Roux

## A THRIVING CHURCH!

That's our goal — and it is happening among the Wana people. They themselves lead their own thriving church — reaching out to three different people groups, as well as encouraging other indigenous churches to thrive.

In September the Wana hosted their largest ever Bible conference, inviting church leaders from several other isolated people groups. It was a huge undertaking, not without obstacles.

“The logistics for getting folks to this event were looking to be a bit of a nightmare,” said Ed Casteel, one of the original church planters in Wana, “but the Kodiak airplane with its ten-seat capacity will help alleviate much of the travel challenge.” That meant re-opening a couple of airstrips for the Kodiak to use.

The believers got busy, working on the airstrips. Nomad Nelman, head of our Ethnos360 Aviation flight program

in Indonesia, sent a faithful man, Bambang, to head up the project at the strip needing the most work. Bambang

took his family with him, staying near the airstrip for three weeks.

“[The strip had to be] reoriented around 5 degrees to position it over firmer ground since it was too soft before,” said our international chief pilot Daren Spence. Bambang rose to the task. “To move rock up from the river to the airstrip, they used a large garden tiller which Bambang figured out how to attach to a small trailer,” said Daren.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Pilot Daren Spence on a previous flight to the Wana people. photo by Nathan Tag

# NOT THE END OF THE STORY

“You guys need to teach all day every day so I can learn how God is going to help me get rid of my sin!” exclaimed Kasi, a Kaje [kah-jay] villager, as the teachers concluded that day’s lesson.

After five years of living in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, learning language and culture and preparing lessons, the Ethnos church planting team has started teaching the life-giving truths of God’s word for the first time in the Kaje language!

Taylor Goheen, Christopher Meyer and Jon Myers are now over half-way through the foundational lessons, leading

at how much sin has messed up their lives.” But optimism is high too! “I told her to just hang on and keep listening because this is not the end of the story!”

The church planting team needs to hang in there too!

**They and their families live in this isolated Kaje village, relying solely on Ethnos360 Aviation’s helicopter for all their food, tools, materials, and transport.**

No roads or airstrip connect them to the outside world. Only with the helicopter supplying their needs can the team maintain the momentum of their teaching, undistracted by trips for supplies.

With great anticipation, they press forward to the end of the teaching. Abby speaks for the team: “My heart is bursting with excitement for ... all the Kaje to know that Jesus has paid the price for their sins.”

Would you pray that the Kaje people remain eager and open to the rest of the story?

You can be a part of this excitement in even more people groups by helping replace Ethnos360 Aviation’s 40-year-old helicopter in Papua New Guinea. It can no longer meet the current demand for service, especially as we reach into more and more remote people groups. **Go to [ethnos.ca/helicopters-for-papua-new-guinea/](https://ethnos.ca/helicopters-for-papua-new-guinea/) to learn more.**



Christopher illustrating the blood on the doorposts in the Passover story. photo by Abby Goheen

more than 150 men, women and children on a journey through the Bible, story by story. Cecilia, a faithful listener, is tracking: “I am going to be like Noah and do whatever God says. I will not be like the people who did not get in the boat.”

The Kaje people are literally leaning forward as they listen, anticipating how the saga will end. They know they have a sin problem as they stand before a perfect, almighty God. They know that this same creative God who crafted the world and the stars with only His words has promised to unfold a rescue plan that He has devised. They cannot wait to learn what it is.

Tension is high. “After the teaching today, a lady came to me and was so distraught,” wrote Abby Goheen. “She was so overcome with worry and grief



Taylor teaching step by step. photo by Abby Goheen

## A THRIVING CHURCH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

The strip was ready in time for the conference.

And what a conference it was! We’re not talking about a resort and swimming pools or a cruise. No, this was rustic camping in the main Wana village.

The people relished hours of solid Bible teaching and fellowship. They revelled in the rare interaction with believers outside of their small villages. And they celebrated the newly completed translation of Genesis and large portions of Exodus.

Without aviation, the Wana would probably still be unreached. Without aviation, the church would be isolated from the fellowship of other believers. All praise goes to God for His amazing work on their behalf. And many thanks to those of you who help with Flight Sponsorship ([ethnos.ca/missionary-flight-sponsorship/](https://ethnos.ca/missionary-flight-sponsorship/)) to make air service affordable for the Wana church.