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

THE FIFTY-THREE

Fifty-three reasons — and more. That's why you work with us to make Ethnos360 Aviation available to support and sustain church planters as they reach people with God's Truth.

You might remember a story in the December 2024 Journal called "Wednesday Happened." For the first time in eight years, Ethnos360 Aviation was able to position the helicopter to make a short flight for Jason and Laken Cizdziel (/cheese-gel/) and their family, who work among



Laken Cizdziel and children after the first helicopter ride.
photo courtesy of Cizdziels

the Wabuku people. This short helicopter leg of their journey — after a Kodiak flight to the nearest airstrip, far from the flight center in Goroka — took six minutes

versus an hours-long, treacherous river trip!

The eight years of work by the Cizdziel family — even though they had to endure the river trip those years — was worth it! In March, the Wabuku church was born! Fifty-three people believed after Jason taught the grand story of God's salvation, beginning with who God is and culminating with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ — and the eternal hope He provided.

The Wabuku church may speak a language that we do not know, but we can clearly understand when they speak of their salvation. Let their testimonies encourage and delight your heart!

"Fifty-three new believers have been baptized in Wabuku," posted Jason.

"This new group has renounced their black magic, sorcery, and necromancy. I interviewed each one who wanted to be baptized. Here are some quotes from their responses."

- **Sebeti** told me, "Just like the sheep took Isaac's death place, Jesus took my death place."
- **Jebri** said, "Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Satan thought he had won, but when Jesus stood up again from the dead, it was clear that Jesus had won and cut a road for us back to Yawe."



The 53.
photo by Laken Cizdziel

- **Aiwasi** said, "Like Cain, we all were born in Satan's clan and couldn't escape. But Jesus beat Satan for us, and now we can join Yawe's clan."
- **Kiwar** said, "We were trapped in Satan's clan and couldn't do anything to get out. How can we people defeat Satan? No, Jesus beat Satan for us and rescued us. We only have to know with one thinking (or single-mindedness) that Jesus' talk is true."
- **Dina** said, "When Jesus comes back, he'll undo all the evil Satan brought into this world. We won't be afraid or sick or ashamed or die or fight each other. That's what our ancestors wanted, too, but they didn't know Yawe's talk. We used black magic, but that never helped us. It was all a lie from Satan to keep us calling on his power. So we will not follow our ancestors' traditions anymore. We will leave them behind because they were Satan's lies. And now we know Yawe's true talk."

The Wabuku believers are now in the Body of Christ with you! Fifty-three souls are added to those redeemed and washed by the blood of the Lamb. May the Lord add many more to the Wabuku church! Ethnos360 Aviation will go the long haul with the Cizdziels as they spend the years — now assisted by the helicopter — to nurture this group of believers into a thriving church.

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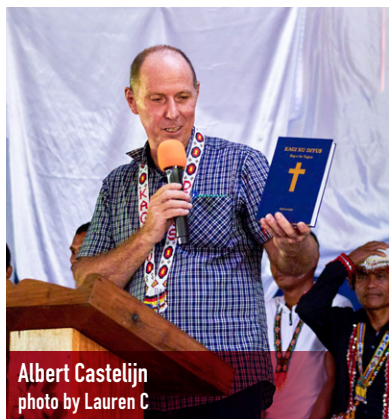
photo by Lauren C

CELEBRATION EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Five large pigs, thirteen 110-pound sacks of rice, and thousands of disposable plates (aka banana leaves!) Let the rejoicing begin!

March 26, 2025, was, in Lynne Castelijn's words, "without a doubt, one of the most brilliant days of our lives."

Finally, the New Testament is "100% completely translated, printed, in the hands of the Banwaon believers."



Albert Castelijn
photo by Lauren C

Lynne and her husband, Albert, have labored over 30 years among the Banwaon people. During those years, Albert, along with his Banwaon translation helpers, has spent countless hours to complete the New Testament in the Banwaon language.

March 26 was the day set for the dedication. The Philippine Bible Society had "bent over backwards"

to print 2,000 copies in record time. The new church building was ready — built by the Banwaon believers. The "neighbors" were invited. By March 25, over 500 people had hiked or biked in — "from the Tala Andig tribe, the Higaunon, the Manobo and Banwaon from the mountains," posted Lynne. Altogether, about 1,500 people came for the dedication, including locals.

"The Banwaon believers ... are all hosting people in their houses," wrote Lynne. "The logistics are staggering. They never cease to amaze and inspire me how they take it all in stride — mud, lack of power and water, minimal resources."

With two R66 helicopters on location, pilots Alex Minium and Ryan deRoos spent a day bringing guests and more copies of the Bible, with more flights planned for the 26th.

Fervent prayer ensued. "The weather forecast for tomorrow (Dedication Day) is '100% chance of rain including torrential downpours,'" wrote Lynne.

But God held off the rain. The aviation team flew multiple flights over several days to get everyone in. Guests came from around the globe: translation consultant JJ Rasmussen and his wife from Italy; the pastor and elder from Castelijn's sending church in Australia; Lynne Strange from the USA, representing all missionaries who have worked among the Banwaon; Castelijn's adult children and families; and Filipino colleagues and mission leaders.

The Banwaon believers planned the whole celebration, a "beautiful juxtaposition and incorporation of traditional Banwaon culture, identity and worship as they praised God for His Word."

After the celebration lunch, "the air once again buzzed with non-stop flights" — 20 in all — as the pilots took visitors back to town. Minutes after squeezing in the last possible flight, the predicted heavy rain began.

Though Albert and Lynne see the New Testament dedication as a milestone, Lynne says it's just "one element of the bigger task to which the Lord called us ... being part of a team working towards a healthy, functioning, well-disciplined, mature body of believers amongst the Banwaon indigenous people of Mindanao."

Ethnos360 Aviation has played a "massive role" toward reaching that goal among the Banwaon. And they'll be there to see it to completion.

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First Banwaon believer
photo by Lauren C



photo by Sara



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DISTRESS RELIEF

Have you ever wondered if a good thing you did made a difference in anyone's life?

A good thing happened in 2016 during pilot Nomad Nelman's checkout in Indonesia. He and instructor pilot Daren Spence flew over the airstrip in a Tugutil village, not even sure if they could land. Providentially, the people had done the work needed to make it ready for them. What a relief for a distraught dad who waited for them, his horrifically-burned daughter in his arms, hoping they could help!

Shifting into “medevac mode,” Nomad and Daren flew them to the nearest town.

The hospital couldn't handle Sheila's case, so she was sent to another, and then to Jakarta. Inquiries were made to Singapore to see if they had facilities to help, but no. Ultimately, she and her dad traveled to Grossman Burn Center in Los Angeles.

Andy Miles remembers that: “My Dad [Keith Miles, church planter among the Tugutil] and I rushed to LA to assist with care and translate for her and her dad, as both only spoke Tugutil — no Indonesian or English.”



photo by Daren Spence

SHEILA'S FAMILY CAME UP TO HIM, CRYING AND THANKING HIM FOR HELPING THEIR LITTLE GIRL.

A year or so later, after Sheila had healed and returned from the USA, Nomad flew into the village with a church planting consultant. Sheila's family came up to him, crying and thanking him for helping their little girl.

Move forward to just a few months ago, when Andy Miles traveled to revisit the Tugutil village where his parents, Keith and Anita Miles, had invested their lives to bring the gospel. He reminisced with many villagers who told stories of how his parents had influenced their lives.

And he connected again with Sheila, now a lovely young lady. “What a joy a few days ago to see how well she is doing today! She reported she has no restriction to her movements from the scar tissue!”

Maybe you yourself were one who prayed or gave generously to relieve Sheila's situation. You can enjoy the satisfaction of a good deed done in Jesus' name and see the wonderful outcome of a story in which so many had a part.

And what a joy that a thriving group of Tugutil believers — still being served by Ethnos360 Aviation — is actively reaching out to other remote Tugutil villages bringing the message of relief from the distress of sin.

Thank you for helping spread the Hope of Christ!



photo by Andy Miles

SCOTT WOLFE — A SERVANT OF GOD

Sheila's story starts long before the day she was medevac'd. In October of 1977, Scott Wolfe, a farmer from Indiana, called by God to mission aviation, left the USA for Jakarta, Indonesia. His job? To start a flight program for New Tribes Mission. He'd already started a program in Panama, and with that experience under his belt, he worked to import a Super Cub to the island of Sulawesi. Then a Cessna 185 to Kalimantan. And finally a Piper Apache to the Maluku Islands region.

That's where Sheila's story intersects. She is from one of the islands in the Maluku area. Scott's work for 12 years in the 70s and 80s — flying and maintaining those three aircraft on three islands, helped by many others, of course — led to the day when Nomad and Daren landed a Kodiak airplane on the Tugutil airstrip and provided a providential medevac for Sheila.

Scott, always accompanied by his beloved Mary and their two children, went on to serve for many more years in the leadership of NTM Aviation, facilitating many more rescues of people, both physical and spiritual, as they heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2010, he was honored, along with several other original pilots, to accept the keys to the very Kodiak airplane that would rescue Sheila, landing on an airstrip that Scott had scouted out decades before.

June 16, 2025, Scott took his final flight to Heaven, greeted no doubt by “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” Thanks resounds to the heavens for Scott's dedicated life of service.



photo by Phil Koop

JUMPING FOR JOY — AGAIN!!

A grown man jumped for joy! That was back in November of 2020 when, for the first time, the R66 helicopter in Brazil landed right next to Henrique's jungle house where he was working among the K people.

Now Henrique and his wife, Rachel, are "jumping for joy" again, in a way. They are getting co-workers.

It's a hard, long haul to learn language and culture, teach literacy, translate sufficient scripture, and write Bible lessons. But to do it alone is definitely not ideal and it is not recommended.

So, to have co-workers is sure something to jump up and down about. And to have more than one couple preparing to join the team — well, maybe that's cause for several days of celebration!

outlay of work at the beginning, but it frees the team to stick to their tasks of bringing the gospel to the K people.

These families would do what it takes to reach the K people, even without the helicopter. But what a time and energy saver to have the R66 helping. And what a relief of the stress load to know that the helicopter is available for emergencies — and for rest breaks when needed.

For now, Henrique and Rachel are so relieved to have coworkers. They are even praying that "the Lord would prepare them to quickly learn the language and culture to catch up to us and even pass us!"

"The K people who want to understand God's Word have been waiting a long time," wrote Rachel. The temptation would be for the missionaries to jump into teaching prematurely, without words to relay key biblical concepts — foreign to the K people — like "salvation, sacrifice, fasting, prophets, slaves, grace, thanksgiving." Rachel and



Henrique and Rachel (middle and right) work with a helper on literacy materials.
photo by Ana Paula Mendonca



The R66 in the K village.
photo by Henrique Freitas

Rachel wrote, "Our first co-workers, [Josh and Lidia], have arrived at our base city and are busy buying what they need for construction of their jungle house and organizing for their trips to the village. The wood to build their house should be delivered to the village next week and they plan on beginning to build in July, Lord willing!"

What a blessing to have an R66 helicopter to cut days off travel time for each trip. "The helicopter can get them in and out faster as they'll need a quick trip in to receive their wood and see where they want to build. Then they leave to get the rest of their building materials — which will have to come in by boat. Then they'll need another boat trip to move their larger things in."

Nothing is easy about moving into a remote area where goods and services are not available.

Even more so to build sustainable housing that won't require the missionaries to spend more time maintaining a flimsy house than in language study and teaching. It's a hefty

Henrique maintain perspective: "We need to remember that God's timing is right in everything. Our main goal should be dwelling with the Lord, taking in His beauty and seeking Him (Psalm 27:4, 14). He'll take care of the rest in His time, and we can rest in that."

Until then, Henrique and Rachel are learning more of the culture and language, preparing literacy materials, and learning principles of translation, getting ready for the day they can start teaching. Their last evaluation revealed they are only one (very difficult!) level away from being able to prepare Bible lessons and translate scripture. "We need prayers for the Lord to open our understanding of key things we don't yet understand in their language and culture," wrote Rachel. Will you pray?

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