



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

ethnos360aviation.org • (520) 642-9280

PROVIDENTIAL TOUCHDOWN

by Grace Downing, Taliabo people group

This is just one of those stories that shows off God's power.

A while back, Rina, a lady down the street, fell ill, and she was getting weaker and weaker. It got bad enough that her husband, Jefri, came and asked about the plane. It wasn't an emergency yet, but they were getting kind of desperate as she didn't seem to be getting better at all. We told them, "Sorry, the plane isn't scheduled for another few weeks." It was "wavy season" [on the ocean], so boat travel was nearly impossible. Jefri and Rina were just going to have to wait it out.



Refueling the Kodiak on the Taliabo airstrip.
photo by Payton Downing

Early one morning, only a short while after that, the sound of the Ethnos360 Aviation Kodiak hummed above the village. The plane was just touching down to refuel on a return flight from a nearby island. As soon as Jefri heard the noise, he ran down to the airstrip to see why the plane had landed and see if it was possible to join the flight back to the city. In the meantime, he ordered his daughters to help pack in case there was room for Rina.

Turns out, there was! Rina and her daughter flew to the city, and Rina was able to get checked out and find some relief.

As Jefri later recounted, he was convinced that God was specifically answering their prayers for help. Jefri is not particularly religious and never comes to church. He said it really caught his attention.

It was only God who could have answered them like that.

Later, after Rina returned, she showed up at Saturday Ladies' Bible Study. She had stopped going nine years ago and had just been ignoring God about it ever since. When

she spoke to all of us, she confessed that though she had been going to church, she had been far from the Lord in her heart. Only through this illness had she started to pay attention to Him again! She had such joy in her eyes. Since then, she has faithfully come every week and is reading God's Word with a new hunger. Though it's hard for Taliabo ladies to do, she is brave to share what she's learning in front of other ladies.

But the story didn't end there! As the weeks went by, Jefri testified to many people that only God could have helped his wife like that. He told me one day, "I know it was only by God's power that my wife is still here with me today. Because of that, I'm going to start coming to church." He felt like he had had a personal encounter with the Living God.



Rina (L.) and Jefri — an unlikely pair attending church.

photo by Payton Downing


Wait, but it even gets better! In the ladies' study of the book of Acts, after we discussed baptism, Rina finally felt like she understood what it meant and wanted to be baptized.

Rina needs to keep growing, Jefri needs to come to a saving understanding of Jesus Christ, and others need to be spurred on by this story. But praise goes to God for His hand in orchestrating this event to His glory among the Taliabo people.

To keep life-changing flights affordable, go to Ethnos360 Aviation, click Give, and choose the Flight Sponsorship project. Or follow the QR code to ethnos360aviation.org/mfs



SCAN TO HELP



Kovol men learning to use pencil and paper.
photo by Steve Stanley

NEVER BEFORE

“He asked if he could borrow a paper and pencil to practice drawing,” wrote Steve Stanley.

He wasn’t a little kid. He was an older man of the Kovol tribe, infected with the idea that he and his fellow villagers would soon be learning to read and write.

“Our team has just reached a significant milestone with the completion of the first draft of our literacy materials,” added Steve, a member of the church planting team in Kovol. “We spent two weeks of focused time working on them with the help of two literacy consultants, and we now have 87 lessons that teach all the syllables needed to read in the Kovol language. Some lessons introduce new syllables, and some lessons are practice lessons that use syllables that have already been introduced to tell short stories for practice reading.

“Our Kovol friends have been with us every day for the last few weeks. We told them clearly that since this was a two-week-long effort, they didn’t have to attend every day. [But] seeing people attending every day, there at 8 a.m. sharp, is encouraging.”

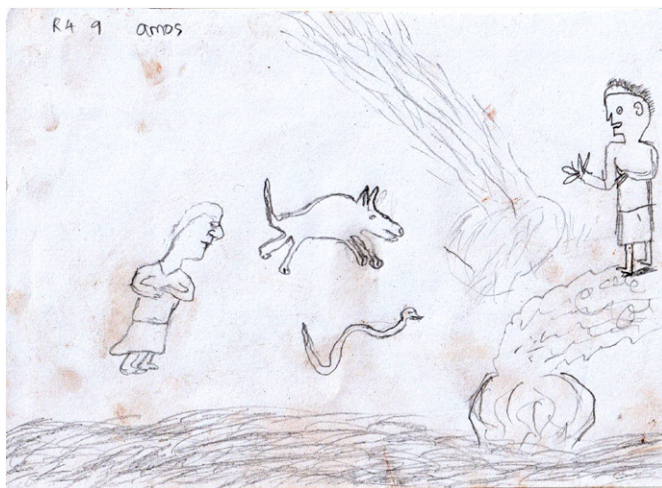
Becky, wife of Kodiak pilot Travis Lesicka, is delighted to see this progress, since Ethnos360 Aviation sustains the Kovol team in their remote village. “The exciting part ... is that the team had 40-plus Kovol people on hand to help them each day of the program’s development. They illustrated stories, helped check to see if the stories communicate, suggested words to use and rejoiced along with the team with each page completed.”

“We handed out sheets of paper and pencils,” wrote Steve, “and groups worked at drawing pictures to go with our stories. The community ended up drawing 82 illustrations for us.

“A highlight was a mock lesson we taught on the first pages of Primer 1. We invited some people up to participate, and

the beaming smiles on their faces as they learned to read and called out sounds they had learned were amazing.”

Now the team needs to go through a meticulous checking process of all the material, including formatting it for printing. They’ll also produce a step-by-step teacher’s manual in the Kovol language so the people themselves can eventually teach literacy.



Amos’s drawing for a story about a snake in the bamboo.

“People are excited to learn to read,” observed Steve. When the man asked for paper and pencil to practice, Steve paid attention: “This might be one of the guys who should be part of the first literacy class!”

Without consistent aviation, teams like the Kovol could not stick to their work and even have consultants come in to help them produce literacy materials. Travis and Becky count themselves part of the team to reach these people with the gospel. As Becky wrote, “Pray for this new

literacy program to go well and to lay the foundation for understanding the Bible in their heart language.”

To keep life-changing flights affordable, go to Ethnos360 Aviation, click Give, and choose the Flight Sponsorship project. Or follow the QR code to ethnos360aviation.org/mfs



SCAN TO HELP

BEADS IN A JAR

“Look for more language jar pictures each month ... for the next two to three years,” posted Alex Williams in 2022. He and Erin were settling in for the long haul of church planting in the Northern Isnag people group of the Philippines.

The Ethnos360 Aviation Journal in late 2022 showed Alex’s jar of beads:

little colored ones for each hour of language study, and a big white one each time he completed 100 hours of study.

The road ahead seemed long.

In April 2025, Alex’s jar displayed colorful layers of beads — and one big white one on top. Time for evaluation! A team would come and determine his skill level before he would be declared capable of writing Bible lessons.

You may wonder how consultants who don’t even know the Isnag language could determine Alex’s competency.

- The evaluators asked questions to determine Alex’s understanding of the Isnag culture.
- They observed him with villagers in natural settings, noticing if the people were comfortable and engaging in conversation or if they were confused when Alex spoke. They noted if his speech sounded like theirs.
- The evaluators recorded Alex in discussions with villagers. During playback, another villager told the evaluators (in a common language) what could have been better.
- Finally, Alex also evaluated his own level of understanding.

“I passed!” posted Alex. “After three days, our evaluators are confident I can start preparing to teach Bible lessons in Isnag!”

Alex got to work on the lessons and began teaching in July. In September, after teaching key Old Testament stories contrasting the path of Satan and the path leading to God, one lady asked, “Ok. I get it. There are two paths. How do we know which is which?” Alex assured her it would be clear in a few more lessons.

October 4 brought the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus. The story of Jesus’ death came October 22: “Aggina nga la ya mabalin magikaru adaya ngamin basbasul idi alawagan.

(He [Jesus] is the only one who can pay for the sins of the world.)” Then came the news of His resurrection.

The truth joyfully dawned on these people who have in the past been “churched” in Tagalog or even in English: “So going to church doesn’t pay for our sin?” “If we believe in Jesus and He paid for our sin, we don’t have to go to church to lessen our sin!?”

This time, with “the beads in the jar,” they heard in their very own heart language. And they understood! Now, Alex and Erin and other Isnag team members will nurture the fledgling believers into a mature group who can keep telling the message clearly to other Isnag villages waiting to hear and understand.

Be a part by keeping flights affordable for the Isnag team. Go to Ethnos 360 Aviation, click Give, and choose the Flight Sponsorship project. Or follow the QR code to ethnos360aviation.org/mfs



SCAN TO HELP



photo by Erin Williams



photos by Erin Williams

HERE ... AND GONE?

“The helicopter was a game changer,” says Samuel.

Samuel and his wife, Noaby, church planters in Brazil, remember what it was like without the helicopter: Pothole-filled road trips, then up to 16 hours on the river — only to have to drag their three-months’ supply of cargo up the steep and often muddy riverbank and then hike each load a half mile to their jungle home. Sometimes it took three days to cart it all from the riverbank to their house. Logistics like that cut deeply into the time they could spend on language learning.

Henrique, also a church planter in Brazil, literally jumped for joy the first time the R66 helicopter landed right next to their house in a remote village. He and his wife, Rachel, clearly remember the river trips without the helicopter. One time, when they were bringing a language consultant to their jungle home, they got stranded when the motor support of their small boat broke. They ended up spending the night in someone’s larger boat parked on the riverbank. Helicopter service frees them up to prepare for their upcoming literacy program, followed by translation and then teaching.

Rachel and Henrique recently welcomed teammates Josh and Lidia Kuhn. Kuhns had just started building their house when they found they lacked some essential items. “I cannot even imagine,” wrote Josh, “having to travel by boat to town to buy the stuff then travel back upriver to the village. I guess it probably would have been a whole-week’s loss of time.” Instead, pilot Bruno Siqueira in the R66 did the job in an hour and 15 minutes.

“We were ‘saved’ by the helicopter!” wrote another new church planter, Bekah Kern. She and her husband, Aaron, are still in the house-building phase in a remote village. “Our dream,” she wrote, “is that God would use us to share the life changing message of Jesus Christ among [a people group in the area].” With three teams coming to help build their house — tickets purchased, plans made — the only commercial airline anywhere near their location stopped service indefinitely. They contacted pilot Bruno, “and BOOM! We were back on! ... We are incredibly blessed to be working within the range of the Ethnos360 Aviation helicopter here in Brazil.”

Church planting teams like these — amounting to over

70 people in all, including children — rely on the R66 to make their work sustainable.

But what if these folks lose the aviation service that facilitates bringing God’s Word to unreached people groups?

What if their work that is finally gaining momentum becomes sluggish — or stops — because of the overwhelming difficulty without air service, and indigenous people are left wondering if God is strong enough to tell His message in their language before they die?

Sadly, the temporary arrangement for housing the R66 in this region is ending far sooner than expected. Though the team has been searching for alternative arrangements for quite some time, they have exhausted their options. After prayer and with counsel from USA and Brazilian mission leaders, they have concluded that the Ethnos360 Aviation flight program needs to build its own hangar in the region.

Since it is imperative that flight service continue unhindered to keep the church planting efforts

moving forward, the team needs to move ahead quickly. They have identified suitable land on which to build a permanent hangar and helipad, and the team already has plans drawn for the construction of the hangar.

If it is in your heart to reach people in the remote villages of Brazil with the gospel, we invite you to consider helping with the finances needed to build a hangar from scratch in this location.

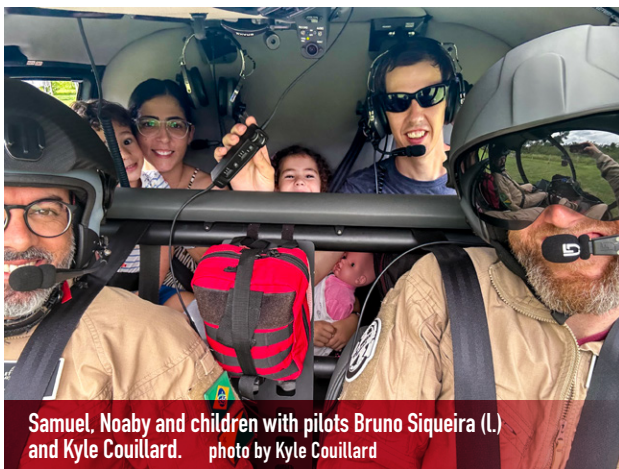
To partner in this opportunity, go to Ethnos360Aviation.org, click the Give and choose the Brazil Hangar project. Or follow the QR code to ethnos360.org/projects/brazil-hangar.

Thank you for caring for the unreached in Brazil.



SCAN TO HELP

And would you also pray that, with purchase of land and building contracts in place, the team would be allowed to continue using the current facility until the new hangar is ready for use.



Samuel, Noaby and children with pilots Bruno Siqueira (L.) and Kyle Couillard. photo by Kyle Couillard

The R66 in the village that Henrique and Rachel and the Kuhns are reaching.
photo by Josh Kuhn

