



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

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## MISSION MULTI-TOOL

**“All right, brothers. This is your new tool. Make the best use of it!”** Pilot Jeremiah Diedrich had just flown four Brazilian mission leaders on a 20-minute flight in the R66 helicopter that could have taken them days on the river.

In fact, four times in one week, Jeremiah demonstrated God's amazing provision of the R66 helicopter as a tool for reaching people with His Word.



Edith helps Jeremiah unload Kulina New Testaments (see p. 2)

**After a year like 2020, with almost no flights, 2021 is bringing multiplied opportunities to show how the helicopter meets diverse needs in sustaining church planting teams among various people groups.**

Can you relate to any of these uses of the R66 multi-tool?

**Accessible health care – that doesn't take a toll on your health!** A young mom on a church planting team needed a 22-week checkup for her pregnancy. Rather than doing a days-long boat and land trip with her husband and toddler to get back to their ministry location, they got a quick jaunt in the helicopter. Since the R66 has a roomy baggage compartment, they brought supplies for their coworkers too. Having the

helicopter means only days away from language study – not weeks – when the next checkup comes around. They'll even have energy left over to buy more supplies for the team while they are in town.

**Interaction with someone who speaks your language – and you don't have to make supper!**

Another young family, with no co-workers at present, can easily feel lonely in their jungle village. They miss interaction with believers and with others who speak their own language. What a boost to have a visit – especially when the guest is Jeremiah, the helicopter pilot, coming with a supply flight! He offered to bring pizza from town in exchange for staying overnight. Sounds like some extra-special fellowship!



Brian and family landed just 80 feet from their house!

**Facing a years-long task – and knowing you have help!** Brian and Rachel and their two little boys have lived among a people group for about two years, with a long way to go before they can teach the people in the native language. During dry season, the river dips to ankle deep at places, making supply trips difficult or impossible. They've never had the benefit of air service to fly right over that river. But Rachel recently posted, “Yesterday we made history. Our first helicopter flight ever!” The whole family fit in the helicopter with

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## MISSION MULTI-TOOL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

some supplies too – and landed within 80 feet of their house! Not only that, but mission leaders flew into their area on a subsequent flight, something they'd never done before. They spent time encouraging Brian and Rachel and met some of the people from the village where they work.

**Realizing the fruit of years of work – and knowing it can continue with the help of the new tool!** On the first flight of the helicopter into the Kulina people group, pilot Jeremiah Diedrich brought precious cargo:



Edith speaks at the New Testament dedication

Pastor Bira, his sister Edith and other Kulina people, returning to their childhood village, where years ago New Tribes missionaries had brought them the

gospel. In the cargo hold were boxes of the completed Kulina New Testament – the culmination of 40 years' work. As a 12 year old, Edith remembers helping the missionary adapt the translation from SIL's Peruvian Kulina edition. Edith, now 38, couldn't wait to get the boxes unloaded.

Hundreds of villagers turned out, and Pastor Bira preached with ease in his native language. In the coming year, he will give up his pastorate and begin taking the Good News to more Kulina settlements. He is now the missionary!

As they left the village, flying over group after group of Kulina houses dotting the jungle, pilot Jeremiah said to Bira, "Well, this helicopter can land in any of those villages, so here's your vehicle, Pastor Bira, Kulina pastor! Go and preach to 'em."

Bira responded, "Yes! Yes! We're gonna do it. I'm gonna do it."

Partner with Pastor Bira and all these missionaries by making flights affordable. **Go to [ethnos360aviation.org/projects](https://ethnos360aviation.org/projects)** and click on Missionary Flight Sponsorship.

## RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES

**Alex Minium faced an impossible task.** "I'd liken the feeling to me standing at the bottom of El Capitan's 3,000-foot summit in Yosemite National Park," wrote Alex, who serves as both program manager and helicopter pilot for Ethnos360 in the Philippines. "The only thing I've ever climbed is a ladder – and I don't particularly like heights."

He knew he needed to replace the R44 helicopter in the northern part of the Philippines with an R66 like he was flying in the southern part. And he had to do it before COVID restrictions lifted and missionaries started returning and needing flights. But COVID – and a limited budget – seemed to make the task as unlikely as Alex climbing El Capitan.

**"The Lord quickly brought my heart to a face-in-the-dirt posture, saying, 'God, this will absolutely have to be you.'"**

God did not disappoint! Just a few weeks later, a Philippine non-profit offered to sell us their R66 helicopter – an exact copy of our R66, except for the paint scheme! How could it be so much the same? Because three years ago, the non-profit had commissioned Ethnos360 Aviation to outfit their helicopter exactly like Ethnos360 Aviation's R66 and ship it to the Philippines. Alex had even trained their pilot to fly it!

"Every time we open our hangar door," says Alex, "we can be reminded that nothing is too big a task for our God." Thank God for providing in a way we never expected.

Carbon copy – except for the paint scheme



# PIZZA TOO!

It was time for someone to travel to the isolated Asian-Pacific island where the Tugutil people live. For the last year, no outsiders had visited to encourage the believers there. But they were about to get encouragement of all kinds!

It started with one person – Chris, a consultant from a mission that makes audio recordings of scripture. He needed a flight to the island to choose some capable Tugutil readers for the project.

But to have only one passenger isn't a very efficient use of a Kodiak airplane flight. So, the Ethnos360 Aviation personnel came up with some ideas. Why not use this flight to encourage the whole Tugutil church?

So, they asked their national pastor to ride along. He would be able to meet some of the Tugutil believers who had studied in his town at the Bible and missions school and now minister among their own people.

And why not Rama, one of the office administrators? Of course, Rama would want to take his wife along too.

Then it's always good to have Fira, the bookkeeper. "Fira makes pizzas as a side business," writes pilot Jamin Peck, "so she took orders and carried pizza to her friends [the former students] there in the village." Round it out with the newest pilot on the field, Jared Kresge, still in language study. He can go along to learn the route to the island.

"It was encouraging for our staff to get to experience a flight, and they were also an encouragement to the believers there," writes Jamin.

While all this encouragement was going on, Chris listened to the best Tugutil readers so he could choose about seven suitable voices. Their job will be to record the entire, just-completed New Testament in the Tugutil language.



"The finished recording, once edited, will have a little background music and dramatic sound effects," says Tugutil translator and coordinator of the project Bob Clark. "The recording will be added to the Bible.is app/website so the Tugutil people (or anyone else using the app) can either listen to the NT or listen to it while they are reading it on the screen," he adds.



If all goes well, both the print and audio versions will be dedicated this fall, providing travel restrictions allow it.

So far, plans are moving ahead nicely. Says Jamin, "I'm flying into the village again on Thursday to pick up the first group that's coming out to town for recording sessions." Pray that nothing derails the

project, as world events did last year.

## What an encouragement it will be for the Tugutil believers to both read and listen to the New Testament!

Your partnership with Flight Sponsorship will ensure that Tugutil believers can afford the flights to work on the audio project.

**Find that project at [ethnos360aviation.org/projects](https://ethnos360aviation.org/projects).**

# TWO REALITIES: OPPOSITION AND THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

**“It’s hard to be a Christian in Masa.** We live among people who are not interested in Jesus, who make fun of us, slander us and harm us.” What a harsh reality for the Iski people of the Masa village!

The Iski live in the swampy lowlands of Papua New Guinea, where no roads or airstrips exist. The only way in and out is the helicopter. So with the help of Ethnos360 Aviation, a church planting team brought the gospel to the Iski village of Oguru in 2017.

In 2019, the Oguru believers reached out to the Masa village of their own people group, and many believed. But for the last year, no missionary has been able to visit Masa to follow up on them.



Teaching in Masa

Did that stop God’s Word? “The Lord is building his church with or without missionaries!” wrote French missionary Aurélie Tousch. Her husband visited

Masa this March, “And what André saw during his visit simply amazed him.”

“These young Christians live in the midst of the world and live the reality of these words of Jesus: ‘Do not be surprised if the world hates you,’” she wrote. “What is the reaction of [the Masa] Christians to this opposition? ‘We are trying to show the love of Jesus, to do good to those who hate us.’”

As a result, more than 60 people recently asked the church in Masa to teach them through the story of Jesus, and some of the trained believers have started the teaching.

Pray for believers to stand strong in the face of opposition. To keep helicopter service to places like the Iski villages, [go to Ethnos360Aviation.org/projects](https://www.ethnos360aviation.org/projects) and click on “3 Helicopters for PNG”.



## BREAKING NEWS: DOWNPUR OF BLESSINGS!

For quite a while, Ethnos360 Aviation has been focusing hard on the need for three helicopters for Papua New Guinea. You, our faithful partners, have responded. Through you, God has provided the first R66, and it is almost ready to ship to the field. Also, we are just over half way to purchasing the second one.

Meanwhile, as you read on page two, God marvelously orchestrated the amazing provision of an R66 for the Philippines.

All that time, we knew that Asia-Pacific also had a pressing need for a helicopter to keep supporting the church planting teams there, made up mostly of national and indigenous believers. Though we did not announce this need as a project, God knew all about it.

Here’s how it happened. The Ethnos Canada leadership team presented the need of a helicopter for Asia-Pacific to a Canadian donor seeking a project to fund. Not only did the donor agree to provide the helicopter itself but also the outfitting and shipping to the field. Our Canadian helicopter pilot in Asia-Pacific just finishing his language study, will now have a helicopter to fly!

Three days later — more good news came from Asia-Pacific! Zachary, an Asian-Pacific national we are bringing to the USA to study mission aviation, finally got his visa. It took long years of patient waiting, but God made it happen. We look forward to the day he returns to fly with us in Asia-Pacific.

We could sing “Showers of Blessing,” but this feels more like a downpour! Praise be to our loving heavenly Father, from whom all good gifts come.

If you prayed, if you gave, God is using you as a vital link to reach the world for Christ. Thank you! Let’s rejoice together at God’s downpour of blessings.