



Helicopters for PNG

Vital for Planting Thriving Churches in
Papua New Guinea




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Critical Need

“When are you coming?” People groups in Papua New Guinea are asking for missionaries to come and bring the hope that they see in neighboring tribes. “When will we get a missionary? We are dying and need what you have.”

These groups live in isolated places, inaccessible by road, river or airplane. A helicopter is the only practical means of access. But our 40-year-old LongRanger helicopter cannot adequately serve the church planting teams currently working in our fifteen helicopter-only locations – stretched over hundreds of miles between three islands. With plans to reach three new groups yearly for the next few years, we face a critical need for two R66 helicopters immediately and another one shortly after to meet the ever growing needs.

Watch the video “When are You Coming?” at <http://ethnos360aviation.org/projects/helicopters-for-png>



“When are you coming? We are dying and need what you have.”

Pressing Concern

When the helicopter is unavailable, no pleas for the Gospel are answered.

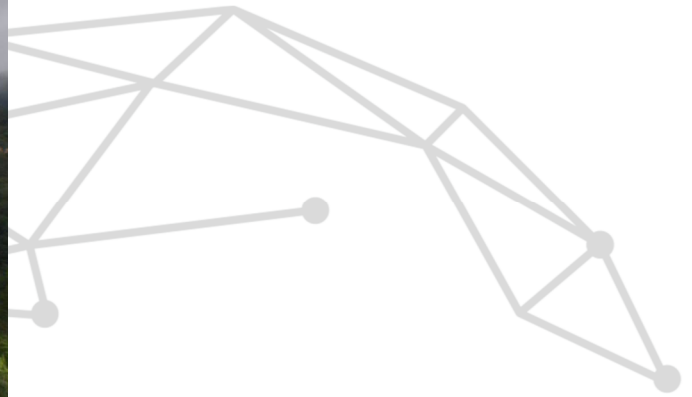
Helicopter pilot Mike McGregor feels the tension of inadequate helicopter service:

“Typically two months a year, our 40-year-old helicopter is unavailable because it’s down for maintenance.” When that happens, no pleas for the Gospel are answered. No one gets helicopter service. No supplies can be delivered. No medical emergencies can be met.

“On top of that, the helicopter serves the whole country,” relates Mike. “So six weeks a year, it is serving in West New Britain or New Ireland, leaving the mainland with no service.” His concerns are valid: For multi-family teams with a number of children, this is especially unnerving.

The lack of seamless helicopter service hinders people groups from being reached. Delayed or unavailable flights hamper church planting teams trying to establish new works. Postponed or canceled flights affect the progress of teams relying on the helicopter to bring supplies or consultants to help them advance in language, teaching, and discipling. The goal of a thriving church in every people group drags out unnecessarily.





Feasible Access

“Quite often, the helicopter is the most crucial piece of equipment.” Keith Copley, PNG field leader

“Nathan and Elizabeth Claasen and their coworkers serve the isolated Pal people group on the top of a mountain ridge. The only feasible access to the location is by helicopter. “From our location,” says Nathan, “it takes two days of hiking followed by hours in a truck. ... The helicopter makes that same trip in 26 minutes.”

“The helicopter enables teams to get in and out of extremely remote locations very quickly,” says Imie Mark III, maintenance controller. “It allows them not just to survive, not just to scrape by, but to thrive in the ministry. They can engage with the people, be supplied with what they need, be connected with their families, have consultants come in and make sure that the work is going forward well.”





Clear Vision

Our vision has not changed: “We want to reach places where others have not gone,” says field leader Keith Copley. Many of those isolated locations require the use of a helicopter, at least to get started — and sometimes for the whole duration of establishing a thriving church. But without the capabilities of helicopters, the vision to reach groups in Papua New Guinea having no clear Gospel is seriously thwarted. “If we don’t take the opportunity — get in there and meet the felt need that a people group is expressing — lots of other things will. And then in five years, the door’s no longer open,” says Keith.

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Why Three?

A minimum of two Robinson R66 helicopters will be required to carry out the current workload of our 40-year-old Long Ranger helicopter. But if one of those two is out of service for unanticipated maintenance, the flight schedule would be totally disrupted – and basic needs would go unmet. To provide reliable and uninterrupted service, we need three R66s, not just two.

Having three R66s will also position us to support the anticipated growth in field outreach. The eastern area of Papua New Guinea intends to increase the number of church planting teams while the western area plans to resume use of the helicopter in its strategy. The geographic area of service will enlarge considerably, and flying hours will significantly increase. These two factors alone drive the need for three helicopters to provide simultaneous service in different regions of the country.

New ministry opportunities are already on hold, waiting until we can provide adequate service. Church planters stand ready to begin work today, but we don't have the transportation they need to start. Your participation in this project could turn opportunity into reality.

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Cost Projection

Robinson R66 Helicopter #1 of 3	\$1,394,857
Robinson R66 equipped for the mission field *	1,056,796
Pop-out floats	44,250
Tools/equipment and spare parts	50,622
Shipping and government fees	32,509
Hangar expansion	42,000
Training one mechanic	7,270
Training one new helicopter pilot from start to field checkout	148,410
Administrative fees	13,000
Robinson R66 Helicopter #2 of 3	\$1,408,389
Robinson R66 equipped for the mission field *	1,152,000
Pop-out floats	55,200
Shipping and government fees	32,509
Training one mechanic	7,270
Training one new helicopter pilot from start to field checkout	148,410
Administrative fees	13,000
Robinson R66 Helicopter #3 of 3	\$1,334,079
Robinson R66 equipped for the mission field *	1,233,370
Pop-out floats	55,200
Shipping and government fees	32,509
SDO administrative fees	13,000
*Prices are based on factory-new R66s because only the new models are currently equipped with the 200lb increase in the sling load capacity. We will consider used R66s if they become available with the necessary options.	
Total PNG Helicopters Project Costs	\$4,137,325

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You can play a significant role ...

As relentless as the kingdom of darkness is, so relentless must we be. As darkness grips the people of PNG, we must redouble our efforts to reach them. Ethnos360 Aviation doesn't have the resources to provide three helicopters for PNG. But God does. Would you humbly enter the throne room of God to petition Him to act on behalf of the fifteen church planting teams currently accessible only by helicopter — and the people groups already slated to be reached in the next few years.

1. You can become an advocate by praying and telling others about this need. Ethnos360 Aviation can provide you with materials to present the PNG Helicopter Project opportunity to your mission-minded friends. Please contact us at 1-520-642-9280 or by email at ethnos360aviation@ntm.org.
2. You can give a gift by sending a check to Ethnos360 Aviation, 3870 W Volunteer St, McNeal AZ 85617, designated for the PNG Helicopter Project. To give by credit card, call 866-547-2460. Or give online at <http://ethnos360aviation.org/projects/helicopters-for-png>
3. If you would like to become a major player in helping us position three R66 helicopters in PNG, please call Phil Koop at 520-642-9280 or email him at phil_koop@ntm.org.

Thank you for being part of the team to plant churches among unreached people groups.

Phil Koop, Executive Director, Ethnos360 Aviation
3870 W Volunteer St
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