

Kim and I keep telling each other that we want to get a letter out to our dear friends but we always end up asking each other “What do we write about?” In our ministry of what we are involved in, it seems like nothing changes, except for the trainees that come and go. Our work remains the same. Helicopters and airplanes come and go, but how we outfit them doesn’t. Kim still makes the same beds and cleans the same floors in the guest house and throughout the facility. I keep the aircraft fleet airworthy by maintaining and outfitting the new aircraft for the fields time after time. The flight hours get flown off and then I start the process all over again. Nothing new, right? Well, there are other exciting things regarding being a part of a team here at ETHNOS360 AVIATION. We are thrilled to be involved in pouring our knowledge and wisdom, that we have gleaned over the 30 years, into the many different trainee lives. For us to see the many families move on from here and appreciate how our faithful God provides and uses them overseas to accomplish the job that we trained them for is such a huge blessing and encouragement to our hearts.

When ordering parts for the aircrafts, it seems like everything has been prolonged and back ordered. For example, when you order something through Amazon and it takes three weeks to arrive, Ha Ha! Well it’s the same wait with parts, supplies, overhauls, new Robinson R66 helicopters, kits for the overhauls, and just about everything. In the midst of all this, it is good to know that our God is in control and we can trust His perfect timing for every detail.

The following is quick summary of what represents an extensive amount of work:

-October 2021 the new PNG R66 helicopter flew here from the factory in white, we disassembled for paint, stripped and painted the red, assembled, balanced, flew, outfitted for DART floats, wood floors in cargo sections, wood panels that replace the seats for facilitating additional cargo in the cabin area, fabricated & installed tiedowns, emergency equipment, HF radio, HF antenna, Spider Tracks, disassembled, put into a seaworthy container and shipped to PNG, re-assembled, and has currently flown over 500 hours in PNG.

-October 13, 2021 a timed out R66 helicopter purchased from New Zealand, shipped in a container to our hangar, purchased for specific helicopter maintenance training purposes with the trainees: 2000Hr Kit bought from the factory, disassembled R66, repairs made, kit arrived from factory January 17, 2022, repainted fuselage January 28, 2022, painted new boom and tailfeathers, engine sent off for overhaul, reassembled, weighed, balanced, May 26th 2022 Flew, Import Certificate of airworthiness accomplished, ready for sale and proceeds designated back into the helicopter fund.

-January Evaluation for the new candidates who come to our facility and we evaluate them according to their skill levels and then after the week is over we decide if they would be compatible for our Aviation department or not. And they assess whether they want to join our mission, as well.

-March 15th 2022 the Brazil R66 helicopter flew here from the factory in white, we disassembled for paint, March 18–22th stripped and painted the red and then outfitted the helicopter the same way that we prepared the Papua New Guinea helicopter.

-July 11, 2022 completed an extensive maintenance issue on an R44 Helicopter. July 20, 2022 Export Certificate of Airworthiness done, flown to Brazil from Arizona, Brazilian importation accomplished, now ready to be used for tribal church planting teams located in the remote parts of the Amazon Jungles of Southern Brazil.

-August through November 2022—many hours of training and maintenance on training aircraft like 100Hr/200Hr/400hr inspection on the R66 and other outside customers (Cessna 206 aircraft) that we service on an annual basis. The outside annual revenue subsidizes our shop’s utilities and supplies, welders, and purchase of machining tools so we can fabricate special tools for our international aviation programs.

-September another second hand R66 purchased from Canada, presently the helicopter trainees are flying off the remaining 100Hrs and then it will be another training project for the new trainees to have hands-on experience of the rotorcraft that they will be servicing and flying overseas. I am authorized to sign off the aircraft as airworthy so it is critical that I have oversight of all work accomplished!

As you can tell, life continues to happen as Kim and I manage to keep going even with aging parents who are going through skin cancer treatments, Covid 19 bouts, UTI’s, shoulder surgeries, Hip surgeries, doctor appointments, and whatever else life throws at us. What is there to write about? Well, dear friends and family, I think that if you have read this far then you get the point that we are still alive and kicking here in the high desert and ***we want you to know that we are so very THANKFUL for each one of you who pray for us and stand with us so faithfully as partners in the Lord’s work!***

With all of our love and in the name of our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ,

Larry and Kim Dye

