

“We spent the day finishing our packing. For a helicopter flight, we need to know exactly how many kgs we are, which means packing everything, including toothbrushes and pajamas, weighing it and then unpacking the essentials again. We just so appreciate the organization and flexibility NTMA routinely show in rearranging their schedule. It’s no easy task to keep track of what each aircraft is doing (sometimes with connections between them), who’s going where, factoring in maintenance time for the aircraft, being available for emergencies and, on top of all that, rescheduling bad weather days at the last minute! The number of variables the flight coordinator keeps track of is impressive!

Thursday rolls around and the helicopter is busy with its first flight of the day. As the helicopter is about its business though, a maintenance issue comes up that means it has to return to Goroka. Our flights (and other flights) need to be postponed till that is fixed so now it’s looking like we’re in Goroka till next week.

NTMA are very apologetic – but we’re so appreciative of them. Without them, we quite literally can’t be in Kovol and they’re heading into the work day with further disruption to the schedule that they are adapting to at the last minute. Wow, working at NTMA must feel like being in a continual crisis with all the weather disruption here in PNG! We praise God for these co-workers of ours.

We also praise God that a 2nd helicopter has been bought and is on the way to PNG. It really boggles the mind that the 3rd helicopter to complete the fleet has also been purchased for NTM PNG through the generous donations of supporters and is in production. That’s just incredible and we praise God the 2nd helicopter is due to arrive in a few months which will really help keep the schedule ticking.”

Steve Stanley, Kovol.

Please pray for New Tribes Mission Aviation and all the weather and maintenance issues they manage. Pray for the new pilots and mechanics preparing to head to PNG and for the 2nd R66 helicopter enroute.



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