

Dukes Digest

News from Paul & Barb Dukes

July 2009

This newsletter is way overdue. Why is that, you ask?
Well, the new airplane from Quest Aircraft, the Kodiak, finally made its way to MAF.

Kodiak!

This is an airplane that MAF (and most specifically – Mr. Paul Dukes) has been watching for 10 years, anxiously awaiting its certification and production.

What makes it so special?

It uses jet fuel. Jet fuel is readily available around the world and is much less expensive than avgas. The small Cessna 206's that are the backbone of MAF's fleet use aviation gasoline. In Papua alone the pilots were grounded for many weeks for lack of avgas. The Kodiak won't be grounded for lack of fuel!

It carries 10 people versus the Cessna 206 which carries 6.

It carries 6800 pounds in gross weight – the Cessna 206 carries 3600.

And it is capable of take-offs and landings in the same small strips as the Cessna 206!



This picture was taken the day the Kodiak arrived in Nampa. The office cleared out and we all celebrated together!



This is just a cool picture of the Kodiak in action.



This was taken in Vancouver, WA where we went with the Kodiak for a dedication ceremony at New Heights Church. New Heights has donated a lot of money towards the purchase of the Kodiak – so they were honored with the identifier on the plane being “58” (for New Heights being on 58th Ave.) “NH” (obviously for “New Heights.”) We have many friends at New Heights – not to mention that it’s where our son Jonathan attends church!



Instead of conventional instruments, the Kodiak utilizes three large graphic displays to provide flight information to the pilot.

So, back to my original point...

Why is this letter so late? I was thinking that Paul would want to do the honors of introducing you to his new baby. (That would be the Kodiak. Don’t be thinking other silly thoughts...) But Paul has been so busy with his new baby he just hasn’t had time! You know how new babies are... very time consuming.

This particular plane is headed to Papua which obviously has special significance for Paul and I. Rejoice with us in the new gift from God! (And pray this baby leaves the nest SOON!)

(Oh yeah – why is Paul working so much on a brand new airplane? His job has been to get it “field ready.” MAF does many modifications for our jungle flying. Since this plane is still so new - this was only the 11th plane off the assembly line- there have been some minor squawks to be worked out as well. It’s all good!)



This is the proud papa with his baby!

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