

Selamat Natal (Merry Christmas) from the Hopkins in...



Hopkins' MAF newsletter Christmas 2009

New airplanes everywhere, meeting Borneo's needs

Brad just finished his check-out on the Cessna Caravan—an airplane that Mission Aviation Fellowship added to its fleet here in Kalimantan just over a year ago. The larger Caravan (see picture below in which solar panels are brought into a village) has joined the smaller 6-seat Cessna 206 as a way to solve the Avgas shortage (the Caravan uses much-easier-to-find Jet Fuel), and provides a way to bring larger loads into villages interior. Last month, Brad brought in a load of pipe to a village that is planning on setting up a water system from the river into people's homes—a much easier alternative to using buckets. He also has brought in big, heavy equipment to a village that is creating a business to process and export pineapple—which should help the local economy. Due to its size and load capability, passengers often ride along with the big equipment, providing a cheaper way to get from here to there.

Also, this month, just before Christmas, our program is supposed to get yet another airplane—the Kodiak—a brand new airplane just entering the mission aviation world this year. While the Kodiak has less load capability than the Caravan, it has more than the Cessna 206, and can still get into the smallest, most challenging airstrips in the jungle.

Here's a quick look at our fleet in a nutshell:

4 Cessna 206s - a long-standing mission "bush" airplane, good for getting into small airstrips—

Brad enjoyed flying these airplanes during his first term here

1 Cessna Caravan - also has been in mission aviation for years, but is new to our program here;

needs longer runways, but can carry much bigger loads

1 Kodiak - a much-anticipated, brand-new airplane that can carry medium-sized loads, and can get into small airstrips while using jet fuel; quite possibly the next generation main mission aviation airplane.

