WHOOPING COUGH OUTBREAK PREVENTED

Responding to an emergency life flight request, we flew out to the remote Sepik village of Amboin for an expectant mother experiencing complications in delivery. While evaluating the patient and preparing her for flight, the local community health worker, Sakarias, informed us that the village was in the midst of a Pertussis (Whooping Cough) outbreak and in desperate need of antibiotics to prevent the bacterium from spreading further. A six-month-old baby girl had already died from the illness and he feared others would follow without intervention.

Upon our return to Wewak, we began working with the Area Medical Store (AMS) established by the PNG government to obtain the medications needed. As soon as the supplies were ready, we loaded and delivered over 800 kg (1,760 lbs) of medicines to the village of Amboin. The community health worker reported that these medications were used to treat over 150 people infected with the Bordetella pertussis bacterium. Weeks later, the outbreak now appears to be over with no further fatalities reported.

Without the floatplane, these medications would have been delivered much too late by way of a dug-out canoe on a long trip up the Sepik River. In profound relief and gratitude for the many lives saved, Sakarias gifted our staff with rare tree saplings from their village and a hand-woven bag made from natural bush elements. We stand humbled and amazed at the extraordinary things God is accomplishing, and we are thankful for our unsung heroes, those that give to see hearts and lives changed in the jungles of Papua New Guinea.
The Palm family would like to personally thank all of the Samaritan friends and supporters who helped to make these past 6 months in the USA a great experience. We had the opportunity to travel to many places in the US and to tell the story of Samaritan Aviation to many people. We were overwhelmed by the support and passion from those of you in the US who care deeply about the people of Papua New Guinea.

It was humbling to speak with so many of you who have financially supported the organization for the past 15 years! We are so grateful for your partnership which allows the Samaritan Aviation staff to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who desperately need the services we provide.

As we enter into 2016, we are excited to see what God has planned for our family and the Samaritan ministry in the years ahead!

- President, Mark Palm

OUR SECOND FLOATPLANE IS ON ITS WAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA!

Our second floatplane left the U.S. late December in a forty-foot shipping container headed for Wewak. We estimate a March arrival.