Worldwide, as in the US, there is an undeniable rise in youth violence in the past 30-40 years. The population of Papua New Guinea is no different.

Early one morning, we received an urgent call from an auxiliary police officer in the Sepik village of Moim. Ronald, a 16 year-old boy, had been speared in the chest with a thin metal rod during a fight with another young man in the village. When the officer relayed the rod’s proximity to the boy’s heart as well as his difficulty in breathing, the decision was made to fly out immediately to transport Ronald to the Boram Hospital.

After a 25-minute flight, we landed the float plane on the Sepik River along the village of Moim and found Ronald sitting, supported on each side by two village men, with the rod still protruding from the left side of his chest. With each breath, air could be seen passing through the point of injury, indicating the development of a pneumothorax (the collapse of his lung). After dressing the wound to secure for travel and to slow the progress of the pneumothorax, we started an IV to give fluids to treat his low blood pressure and high heart rate. After carefully loading Ronald onto the stretcher, the village pastor, Kasper, prayed for the young man.

Once we arrived at Boram Hospital, the physicians evaluated Ronald’s condition and planned the removal of the spear. An x-ray revealed that the rod was precariously close to the heart and would require a risky surgery to remove it. After undergoing the operation in which doctors gave him only a 50% chance of survival, we are praising God for Ronald’s life, his expected full recovery, and the opportunity to share Christ with him!
We want to thank Dr. Jon LaFata and his wife Christine for coming to Papua New Guinea and serving in such a sacrificial way. They brought a lot of hope and healing, demonstrating God’s love through many surgeries and general medical care to those living in seven villages in and around Samban. Dr. LaFata stated, “We were most impressed with the dedication and sacrifice that our missionaries devote for the Kingdom of God. We, who live in the ultimate comfort, have no idea how simple things, such as paper towels, taco seasoning, and fresh milk, mean to them. Their calling to serve those who struggle to survive in this remote jungle needs to be understood and appreciated by us.”

CONSTRUCTION TEAM NEEDED!

We need help for our next phase of apartment renovations to provide adequate housing for our growing team. The estimate project costs is $25,000 and 3 to 5 experienced construction volunteers!

Contact Bryan at byeager@samaviation.com for more details.

SAMARITAN AVIATION GEAR & CRAFTS

Wear our gear and help tell our story! You can now buy our T-shirts, Polo’s, and even crafts from village craftsman from Papua New Guinea! Go to our website store at:

http://samaviation.com/samaritan-aviation-gear/