



OCTOBER 2016

SAMARITAN
AVIATION

GIVING HOPE TO A NATION ONE LIFE AT A TIME - SOMETIMES FOUR LIVES AT A TIME!

It was late afternoon on a Saturday when I received a call that a mother, who had been in labor for 3 days, was unable to deliver her baby. This call came while I was on a flight back from picking up a dying mother and her 3 month old baby, who was also struggling for life. After landing in Wewak and dropping off the two current patients at the Wewak Hospital, I rushed back to prepare the plane for the flight to the middle Sepik. While on the ground and fueling the airplane, I received another call to confirm the time and place for the laboring mother to be picked up, or so I thought.

As the flight doctor and I took off and headed for Pagri, I could see the sun beginning its quick descent in the western sky. For some reason it always seems to drop faster here in the South Pacific.

Upon arriving at the river, I spotted the boat with the patient and crew down on the water, frantically waving a red lap lap (cloth) to let me know that they were the canoe with the patient on board.

After a smooth landing on the Sepik, we did a quick assessment of the mother and it was apparent that we would need to get to the Hospital as quickly as possible. As we began to load the patient in the plane, another canoe approached, racing up to the other side of the airplane. The man in the boat yelled out frantically that he had called the plane. He also had a pregnant lady in his canoe that had been in labor for 4 days and she desperately needed to be transported to the hospital. Apparently, when we were receiving the calls for the emergency, we unknowingly were dealing with two separate village leaders with the same exact emergency scenario.

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I knew that there was not enough sunlight in the day to make two flights. We decided to load both mothers in the plane with one caregiver and headed back to Wewak as the sun began to set.

After landing, we rushed the two patients to the Hospital and straight into the Haus Karim (delivery room).

It was exciting to hear that both mothers lived! *Unfortunately*, the first mother to arrive at the plane, Liddy, lost her baby after emergency surgery, but she is alive today to take care of her other kids and husband back in the village. Debra, the second mother, who was experiencing her first pregnancy, ended up delivering twin babies and all three of them are now back in the village! We are so thankful for the opportunity we had to save those four lives on this one flight. What a remarkable act of providence that day! Two separate calls and two mothers from different villages that both converged in God's perfect timing.

When I think about the hundreds of lives like these who have been saved through our work here, I feel such gratitude to all of you who have supported Samaritan Aviation. We are only able to do this because you have heard the desperate cry of those on the other side of the world and have not only heard, but responded.



Mark Palm with baby Samone

So far, 2016 has been the most successful year we have ever had! We have delivered more medicines, performed more life flights, and had more people see and hear of the love of Jesus than ever before! And we still have three months left in the year!

One thing that continues to grow with us is the increase in needed funds. I am asking you to consider starting to support us monthly, consider an increase in your monthly giving, or give a one-time gift to help us continue to reach people like Debra and Liddy with the love of Jesus. With your help, we can continue to offer hope to the nation of Papua New Guinea.

Sincerely,

Mark Palm
President

