



# The MAG FIELD REPORT

MISSIONARY AIR GROUP INC

Help and Hope by Air

September 2009 Issue

## Aircraft Provided for Honduras

We are thrilled to announce that an aircraft has been provided for service at the new MAG mission base in the village of Rus Rus in La Moskitia, Honduras. Harvesters International Mission (HIM) voted at its September board meeting to formally partner with MAG in order to provide the aircraft for this field

tional system. The work on the airplane should be complete by the end of 2009. Work to prepare the base to receive the plane may take a bit longer but is underway. Runway improvements, communications equipment, and fuel storage are issues being worked on. The construction of a dedicated hanger has been pledged by



▲ This Cessna U-206, now in Burlington, North Carolina, is on its way to the shop for field modifications before heading south to Honduras to begin service at the new MAG mission base in village of Rus Rus.

program which will work in direct support of the missionary hospital in Rus Rus, making medical care available to some 25,000 indigenous Miskito Indians according to recent estimates.

HIM is taking care of all the required modifications to the airplane to get it ready for the field. Heavy duty landing gear, wheels and brakes have already been installed. A cargo pod will be installed under the belly of the plane. Special (STOL) modifications will be made to the wings to allow for take-off and landing on short fields. And, an engine monitoring system will be installed and a grant is being sought in order to upgrade the naviga-

the Church of God World Missions department overseeing Latin America.

The Bible says that God is “able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine according to his power that is at work in us” and God has certainly been hard at work on this project! We never could have imagined the extraordinary array of partnerships that have culminated to bring the new base in Rus Rus a reality.

Getting the airplane to the field is only half the battle—as the funding to support and operate the airplane must now be raised. The operating budget is \$80,000 per year for all the expenses required to support [continued on page 2]

MAG is a non-profit Christian relief organization dedicated to...

...Helping those in need, and Training those who help.

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### Current Needs:

- Coordinators for fundraising events
- Doctor for Rus Rus Hospital
- Pilot-Mechanic for Guatemala
- Volunteer Office Administrator

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Internal Revenue Service  
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about 400 flight hours annually. We're asking folks to consider funding one hour of aircraft operation for \$200, which roughly equates to one round trip medical flight and potentially one life saved.

The Wiles family is making preparations for the move to Rus Rus as well. Westley Wiles, the MAG pilot/mechanic on the field who will operate the new plane is asking for volunteer work teams to come down to Honduras to help make improvements to the house he and his family will live in as well as to help build some secure storage buildings. Please contact the MAG office if you, your organization, or church group would like to come down to help quite literally lay the ground work for bringing "help and hope" to an entire forgotten region of Honduras.

You may also consider organizing a fundraising reception at your home or at a local airport. The new MAG Cessna 206 will make a promotional and awareness tour around the northeast in the spring of 2010 before heading south to begin its life saving work. Call to arrange for the 206 to visit your area!



▲ MAG president, Sean Donnelly (left) and Harvesters International Mission president, Dr. Davis Goodman (right) in front of N307AC at the HIM hangar in Burlington, NC.

The partnership between MAG and Harvesters will be broader than the field program in Rus Rus. Harvesters has tentatively pledged to supply another aircraft for MAG's field program in the Peten region of Guatemala (see April 2009 *MAG Field Report*). MAG will also have a role in delivering advanced flight training to missionary flight students attending Harvester's *Missionary Aviation Institute* (MAI). ■

## Firefighters to the Rescue in Guatemala

When MAG President Sean Donnelly visited the Emergency Services Department at the Maya Mundo International Airport in Flores, Guatemala in February 2009, he found more than an invitation to base an air ambulance there. *"The crash rescue crew has just about no working gear, including protective equipment"*, Sean recounts. *"I decided right then, that if we were coming to Guatemala to save lives, we might as well start with these guys!"* Fire departments and fire equipment companies from across New England answered the alarm.

The Burlington, MA, Rollinsford, NH, Eliot, ME

and Kittery, ME fire departments as well as Bergeron Protective Clothing Inc., and Globe Manufacturing Company have provided turnout gear, boots, gloves, helmets, breathing equipment, exposure suits, hose, nozzles, and other supplies—and even a fire truck if we can get it there. Six pallets of gear is on its way to Maya Mundo.

This gift will do more than potentially save the lives of these firefighters and those they might rescue. It has built a bridge of compassion and cooperation that will allow MAG to establish a base from which "help and hope" can flow to the entire Peten. ■



Rollinsford Fire Chief, Mike Spinney, displays the firefighting equipment his department donated to MAG to help the crash rescue team at Maya Mundo airport. ▲

### By the Numbers:

(Honduras Program) January—June 2009

Emergency Medical flights:	93	( 69.4 hours)
Community Service flights:	74	( 73.6 hours)
Ministry Support flights:	31	( 22.8 hours)
Reposition for Maintenance:	0	( 62.0 hours)
<b>Total MAG Honduras flights:</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>( 205.0 hours)</b>

