

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



October 2014

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Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for your warm and enthusiastic response to our last update! It was very encouraging to Bintou to see how the Lord enabled her to share this story in English even though French is her first language.

The month of September was a particularly busy month of flying as well as hosting the tri-annual visit of MSI, Mission Safety International. MSI supports mission aviation programs around the world through on-going safety training programs as well as on-site safety audits. Jon Egeler, the President of MSI, was accompanied by Jim and Diana Brownlee, former missionaries in Indonesia. Jim brings a wealth of experience having retired as head of maintenance for a regional airline. Here is the summary statement from their report after reviewing every aspect of our program during their 1-week visit:

“We were impressed with the AMB Bongolo program. Despite being a small one plane, one pilot operation with very limited resources, they are doing an impressive job of running a professional flight operation with high standards. The aircraft is kept in good shape overall, facilities were clean and well organized, and the passengers speak very highly of the service and professionalism of the operation. Despite having to face significant challenges and obstacles, they are well on their way to achieving some financial stability.

With a small operation and limited resources come challenges, and AMB Bongolo is not immune. Some of the areas that need to be watched are: keeping the pilot from getting overloaded, discouraged, or burnt out; compromising high standards in an effort to save money; lack of support and/or supervision for the field pilot; and getting/keeping the US-organizational support active and engaged.

The existing cooperation with SIL Cameroon and proposed Subscribing Organization status with JAARS will be a big help in addressing some of the concerns, and should be pursued. The future looks bright for AMB Bongolo, and we wish them God’s continued blessings.”*

*Note: Becoming a JAARS SO (subscribing organization) is a voluntary association of the AMB program with the JAARS structure of pilot training, flight and maintenance standards. Future pilots coming to Gabon would complete their evaluation and pre-field training at JAARS before joining the program.



Passenger safety briefing before loading

As a small mission aviation program, we are also very grateful for MSI's hard work to create AIRMAP, a group insurance program for mission aviation that lowered our insurance rates approximately 50% or \$8000 per year. **With our current target of 200 hours of flying per year, that is a savings of \$40 per hour!**

Another important consideration for MSI was the flight schedule and workload for me as the only pilot. **We are thankful to be on target for our planned flying this year.**

Flight hours (January - September)	169.4
Total number of flights	115
PASSENGERS	
Bongolo Staff	116
Short-term volunteers	117
Patients/Medical evacuations	9
Total	242
CARGO	
Medicines & equipment	2,881 #
Total	21,528 #

2014 Year-to-Date Summary

You may recall, this aviation program is strategic to connecting Gabon's capital, Libreville, and outlying villages with quality health care and Christian love at the Bongolo Hospital. Your faithful support has enabled the timely, and often critical, transport of doctors, patients and medical supplies as summarized in the table above! Each flight represents approximately 6 hours of travel time saved by traveling via airplane, often enabling medical crews and volunteers

to get started at the hospital the same day that they arrive! From all of us at Bongolo, thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Good health and strength through a busy season.
- Very productive visit from Mission Safety International
- Promising connections with Bible translation initiatives in Gabon.
- Lord's protection of Bintou from tuberculosis and other diseases that she treats.
- There are no cases of Ebola in Gabon!

Prayer:

- Bintou and I would abide in God's presence and that His joy would be our strength.
- Refreshment and renewal during our Bongolo team annual prayer retreat the end of October.
- For the Ebola situation in West Africa and around the world.

By His Strength,
Bintou & Rob

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