

# The United Methodist Flyer



## United Methodist Aviation Ministries

The Aviation Branch of the  
Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

→ [UMAviationMinistries.org](http://UMAviationMinistries.org) ←

April 2014

In this edition of the Flyer we feature stories from our Wings of the Morning flight ministry in the North Katanga annual conference. A great many of you gave sacrificially to make the new Caravan aircraft a reality last year. Now enjoy the blessing of learning the difference you have made in the lives of hurting people because of your sacrifice. Read, enjoy and celebrate!

## THANK YOU UMCOR!

Every year between the months of January and April a cholera outbreak claims many lives along the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This year was no exception. In Nyembo Mpungu, 28 people had already died and 67 more were being treated when medicines provided by UMCOR arrived on the scene. The United Methodist Aviation Ministries was grateful to again partner with UMCOR to make a difference in the lives of so many isolated villagers who could have perished for the lack of simple medicines. Twelve tons of life-saving medicine worth \$40,000 were given by UMCOR after a report by the new UMC health coordinator Dr. Alexis reached Shannon Trilli, the director of health for UMCOR in New York. The



prompt response saved countless lives. The medicines were sent to be distributed to villages scattered across the North Katanga conference, an area very hard to reach by road in the rainy season. But even when the roads on the ground are closed, the roads through the air are wide open. Wings of the Morning, with its newly arrived Caravan, was ready, willing and able to facilitate the transportation.

On March 15, 2014, pilot Gaston Ntambo landed in Nyembo Mpungu with the first 60 boxes of medicine to relieve the suffering. Nearly every villager came to

the airfield to help carry the medicines on their heads from the airplane all the way to the United Methodist clinic where they were distributed to Nyembo and the surrounding villages. What a beautiful, heart-warming sight to see!



**Umba Monga** is a 55 year old lady from the village of Malemba Nkulu. After falling a year and a half ago, Umba believed that she had severely sprained her leg when, in fact, her leg was broken. She suffered in great pain. Umba shared that the pain would go away for a time, but she was never able to put weight on it or even walk.

Umba lives in a village of 70,000 people, but Malemba Nkulu is without an x-ray machine or a hospital that is equipped to treat patients like Umba. Finally, the family decided to seek modern medical treatment hoping to relieve Umba of her agony.

After contacting Wings of the Morning, this flight was combined with other medical mission flights on that same day. It was a very long and difficult few moments while we watched Umba practically crawling backward up into the airplane one step at a time. She was in a lot of pain!

[Continued on Next Page]

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*La Bonne Nouvelle Dans L'Air  
(The Good News in the Air)*



There are plenty of ways to  
get involved with the United  
Methodist Aviation Ministries.

To see how, visit  
[UMAviationMinistries.org](http://UMAviationMinistries.org)  
or contact Steve Quigg at  
[SQuigg@umcmmission.org](mailto:SQuigg@umcmmission.org).  
To sign up to receive the UM  
Flyer on a regular basis,  
contact Peggy Elliott at  
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*Daniel and Rachel Gabler are with  
Wings of the Morning providing mainte-  
nance oversight for all three UMAM  
branches. They have been living in  
Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo since before  
the Caravan arrived. This was the report  
of their first flight in the new plane.*



We have wanted to get up to see some of  
the flying that Wings of the Morning is do-  
ing. On Sunday we got the chance to go on  
a trip to Kapanga. It is always good to see  
the places you hear about and get a better  
idea of what the pilots have to deal with.

We were only able to spend an hour there because of the weather and the  
need to get back early (it still is rainy season). There were two other people  
(unscheduled) at the airfield who were hoping to catch a ride, but they hadn't  
made arrangements ahead of time. If Gaston had known, he could have ar-  
ranged things differently. He has such a servant heart he hates to say no. I sus-  
pect that aspect is harder for him than any of the aviation "work" he does. But  
there were two patients and fuel waiting to be picked up in Kamina on the  
way back home, and sometimes there is nothing else that can be done.

One "God-incident" that is so typical of what happens when an airplane is  
flying to bring people together was that I met the Kamina District Superinten-  
dent at the airport. I (Rachel) had not been able to meet him, let alone do any  
coordinating, for the seminar that I was planning to lead there in another  
week. What a joy to get details worked out ahead of time. PTL!

The flying was without incident, which is just the way it's supposed to be. One  
of the patients in Kamina had just come out of a coma the day before, and  
that morning he had been agitated and pulled his IV's out of his arm. They  
were concerned that he might get disoriented on the flight and need to be  
calmed down even though he no longer needed the IV. Something I observed  
was that they certainly could use a medical stretcher for the plane that would  
fasten to the seat rails. It would be a lot less stressful if a patient could lay  
down on something comfortable. One of the passengers we had picked up in  
Kapanga was a European Union delegate who looked very competent and  
spoke good French. He was asked to sit with the patient in case there was a  
problem, and he gladly accepted, which was certainly kind of him.

So, as its name implies, Wings of the Morning flew all morning—and half of  
the afternoon too. God was with us all day long--as He always is.

*(Continued from front page)*

The village of Malemba Nkulu is just one of the many villages in the Demo-  
cratic Republic of the Congo which is so very isolated. There is only one road  
going through this village, but it is a very difficult road to travel on even for a  
motorcycle or a bicycle.

After landing in Lubumbashi and being transported to the hospital, the doc-  
tors discovered that Umba's leg was broken below the knee and a gap exist-  
ed between the bones. Surgery was scheduled and now we hope and pray  
that it is not too late and that Umba will some day walk again. Please keep  
Umba Monga in your prayers this week. We are so thankful that Wings of  
the Morning was able to be of assistance to Umba and her family.

