

December 2017

MI&MI

# FLIGHT RECORDER



Christmas Newsletter from  
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No. 39



**THUMBS UP &  
THANK YOU**  
for being part of our  
team in 2017 and  
supporting our  
ministry with  
MAF in PNG!

## DEAR FRIENDS

... because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. The Bible, Luke 1:78-79

This is the true Christmas message that Jesus Christ, who has called himself the light of the world, comes into our darkness, loneliness, and fear. Our hearts become soft and bright. Peace can then grow within us and shine into our relationships. Then, as it happened in Rum, entire people groups or communities can change for the better; tribal feuds can be replaced by peace and joy:

"On Monday, I was flying into Rum airstrip," recently reported our MAF PNG colleague and Caravan pilot Michael Dupuis. "Normally there is a somewhat 'standoffish' feel or presence at this airstrip. On this day, the atmosphere was very different. From the moment I landed I could tell that there was a change...there was an excitement...a joy. It was something that I hadn't felt or observed here in the past. Shortly

after landing, a man came and wanted all of the Bibles that I had in my Bible box. While I was able to provide 12, it wasn't enough. He quickly told me that over the past week they had just baptised 40 new believers into the church. There was a definite movement of the Spirit at work. I'm looking forward to delivering another significant number of Bibles in the next week."

Testimonies such as these speak to the fulfilment of the vision of MAF, that of seeing isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ's name! And these stories couldn't happen without the incredible MAF team that makes it all happen: from logisticians to radio operators, pilots and mechanics, craftsmen and accountants, financial experts, IT-guys and admin staff. In the operational MAF programmes

and the resource countries, each one has a specific and important role in MAF's overall work.

And you, who faithfully re-embrace, encourage and financially support us, are an integral part of this team, too! Over the past few weeks we have been able to meet many of you in person. Thank you for your sympathy and encouragement, generous hospitality and giving!

A warm welcome and thank you to those who have newly joined our personal MAF team. That's really great and we hope you are blessed by it too!

Now we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. May His light shine through us and brighten the world around us.

*Lukim yu,  
Mathias & Mandy*

# CHRISTMAS TIME IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Traditional dances and family commitments, Rachel and a potential kidnapping ...

Nawi Mabo is MAF PNG's Ground Operations Training Coordinator and lives with his family on our residential compound in Mt Hagen. We asked him how Christmas is celebrated in his village. He reports:

The Christmas season in my hometown Daru, Western Province, is a time of joy and celebration. In our language we call this time "Samo". The Samo celebrations are accompanied by traditional dancing, which can at Christmas and New Year usually go all night. Houses are decorated and preparations are made for a solemn village meeting.

The Samo period is also a time to fulfil family commitments. People who have work elsewhere return home to their families and bring money or gifts for their relatives.

During Samo, workers in towns coming home also meet traditional obligations like settling up "basket payment". Basket payment is when people pay their mother's family's people as part of the culture. One day when Anthony and Joy are working and get their own salary, they will have to go home and have to pay Kubide's brothers and sister.

This year I will fly home with my family. But I will not bring money, I will take RACHEL to the village. RACHEL is a computer that builds a wireless network and provides educational knowledge and other valuable information. So to say it is going to be an added value for the whole village community!

Samo is also a time for in-laws, especially from the woman's side, to oppose a husband if the man is not treating his wife well enough or if he has lots of children through her. At such a time, children can get snatched by the wife's relatives and held in their



The Mabo family: Kubide & Nawi, Joy & Anthony ... and little Mathew after being caught while picking Kubide's flowers ;)

houses.

In order for the man to go get his children back, he has to gather his people, collect money and produce, prepare a dance and go to the house where his children/child are held. There he has to pay the money and things, perform the dance and in doing so proves himself to be a good husband and father to look after his wife and children well.

I hope this does not happen to me this Christmas!

The Samo period is also a time to commemorate the dead. Tombs are decorated and gravestones set up.

Years back, ladies, girls and men and boys would have a challenge to paint each other with mud, each group on one side challenging the other. It's all fun, "Samo" time. If a lady or man or boy or girl is alone and caught, she/he could end up having mud all over their

body. It's not practiced so much these days.

*The Samo period at Nawi's place is a time when traditions are nurtured. And that's the case in Germany and many other places too, just practiced a bit differently... We are looking forward to meeting the Mabo family again and hearing their Samo stories!*



**RACHEL** is acronym for Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education & Learning. It is an offline server with leading educational and learning sites suitable for use in schools, community centres, health centres or places of learning worldwide where there is no or limited Internet access. The server's digital content can be accessed through compatible devices such as smartphones and tablets. The information on the server is preinstalled and there is also enough space available to add additional content that may also contain videos. More about the offline RACHEL server can be found under the following link <https://racheloffline.org/>

# LOOKING BACK TO 2017 & LOOKING AHEAD INTO 2018



a couple of wellness nights. Lots of yummy meals were prepared for MAF colleagues and friends transiting through Mt Hagen and many kilograms of fruit and vegetables bought and packed for outstation families.

## Germany 2017

We look back to 30 speaking engagements in different churches and groups of aviation friends and flight enthusiasts. We had as many personal invitations to add to that. Overall, we have probably spoken to more than 1500 people. We estimate that about a third or a quarter have never heard of MAF before! It was an intense and exhausting time, but as much enjoyable! We are grateful for all your encouragement and warm hospitality between the Black Forest and Bremen, Wetzlar and Görlitz, through a golden summer and even some white winter splendour.

We are now looking forward to spending Christmas and the New Year in the circle of our families.

Strengthened and with a rich bouquet of beautiful memories (and a few extra kilos on our hips...) we are set for our next two years in Papua

New Guinea. We leave Germany on 10th January, 4pm from Frankfurt, to fly via Doha, Singapore and Port Moresby to Mt Hagen.

## Papua New Guinea 2018

The year of a hundred beds! We did not count exactly, but this is how the year 2017 looks to us in retrospect, being on the road and being away from our real home in Mt Hagen far too often. So we look forward hopefully to a little more peace and routine in 2018!

What awaits us? Mathias is already studying the handbook for the Cessna 208, also called Caravan, which he will be trained on right after we get back in January. Mandy will continue to work as Communications Officer for MAF PNG.

We look forward to the personnel and structural changes currently happening at MAF PNG. We have a new Country Director and more new people to join our team there. Change processes are always exciting and challenging, however, sometimes they can hurt, but nevertheless they are always necessary.

We also have to do a few more finishing touches on our veranda...

## Papua New Guinea 2017

It was a busy and exhausting year. When we were in Mt Hagen, Mathias flew the Airvan and had the occasional office day. When we were stationed in Telefomin for several weeks at a time, he flew the Twin Otter, each time with other co-pilots or captains.

At the beginning of July, Mathias did a ferry flight of an Airvan to Mareeba for a major overhaul. Mandy was allowed to join him and ten days later we returned with a Twin Otter ferry flight, which Mathias also helped to prepare during the week.

2017 was parliamentary election year in PNG, an emotionally stressful time for us, coupled with a multi-day airfield closure in Mt Hagen, people blocking the roads 400m away from our compound and compound lockdown.

Mandy invested a lot of time into the new look of the MAF PNG website and has compiled extensive story material for MAF International, a work that she really enjoys and which took her flying along with our pilots several times. Mandy also hosted a few women's breakfast gatherings to pack bags of blessings for Medevac patients; she also hosted a women's Bible study and



## THANK GOD WITH US

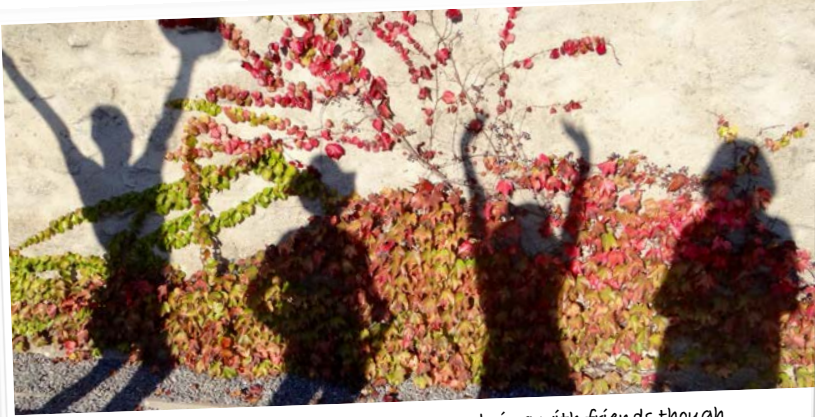
- ▶ for the positive changes at Rum and the possibility of flying Bibles to the villages
- ▶ for Nawi and his efforts to improve educational opportunities in his home village of Daru
- ▶ for safety and good health while in PNG, Australia and Germany

## PRAY WITH US

- ▶ safe flights and getting back into everyday life in PNG and for successful training for Mathias on the Cessna 208
- ▶ for power and wisdom for our new managers in terms of human resource management and restructuring of our fleet
- ▶ for safety in pilot training and everyday flight

# PICTURE WALL.

Some snap shots from our time in Germany



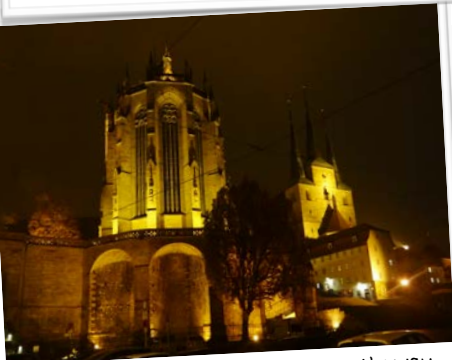
A great day out during the golden summer: wandering with friends through vineyards to Staufenberg Castle with views of the Black Forest in the Alsace.



Cheers! A delicious praline for everyone from the Chocolaterie at Staufenberg Castle.



Just let the autumn sun shine on us and enjoy the beauty of the area.



Erfurt: A couple of nights stopover on the way from the Erzgebirge to meet the people at the MAF Germany office at Siegen.



Submarine and marine monument in Laboe. One week M & M time in Germany's North..



Kiel: One of many huge Christmas markets we visited this year. Someone has to watch that Ad-vent isn't becoming just an E-vent...



No vacation without a 'plane! We stopped at the aviation museum in Wernigerode while enjoying two days in this idyllic town in the Harz mountains.



This house at Wernigerode doesn't have quite our 'collar width' or door height!



Our last MAF presentation in Görlitz under a traditional Herrnhut poinsettia and with delicious Christmas cookies.

## STAY CONNECTED

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## DONATIONS

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