

March 2018

M&M FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 40



HERE
you will find out
what exactly Mathias
is doing there. It's
neither a game nor
preparations to get a
kite in the air...

DEAR FRIENDS

How beautiful on the mountains (highlands and lowlands of PNG) are the feet (MAF Wings) of those (MAF Team Members, pilots, engineers, traffic officers, administrators, drivers, yard workers, prayer and resource partners) who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

The Bible. Isaiah 52,7

On February 26th, at 3:45 in the morning, the central highlands of Papua New Guinea were shaken and we were roused from sleep. An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 caused entire mountain slopes to slip off the central highlands, completely changing the landscape, and the lives of those who live in the area. Luckily this is not a densely populated area, but the damage to individual lives, houses and gardens, for the victims, has still been disastrous. Over 140 aftershocks stronger than 4.5 were registered in the 3 weeks thereafter. Here in Mt Hagen, about 130km from the earthquake centre (red dot on the map), we also felt some of the 'quakes!

We're doing fine!

We are just a bit tired...

MAF PNG has worked tirelessly to organise relief flights, to coordinate operations with other local (mission) airlines, the Red Cross, UNICEF, the Australian and New Zealand military.

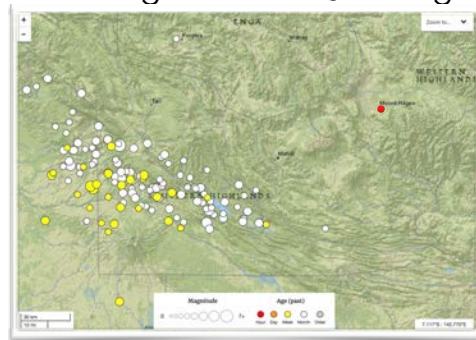
We were both involved in a survey flight the day after the big earthquake (detailed report [HERE](#)). A week later, Mathias flew relief supplies such as drinking water, food and rainwater collection units to Muluma and Bosavi. There was just enough space for Mandy to jump on board to take pictures of the deliveries and interview the villagers (full story [HERE](#)).

Mathias has just started solo operations on the Caravan (C208). The training phase was intense, with long days of flying and focused study time in the evenings.

Much of what has kept us busy over the last few weeks remains unsaid. The space in this Flight Recorder is just not enough...

Thank you very much, for your participation in our journey, your greetings, prayers and donations. You overwhelm us again and again!

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy



Nawi with the injured boy



Nawi and Nobi assist to transfer Nagei to the hospital bed.

SMILES IN SPITE OF ALL THE HURT AND LOSS

Earthquake victims are well looked after in the hospital in Mt Hagen

The first earthquake victims were evacuated by MAF pilot Steven Eatwell from Huya and Bosavi to Mt Hagen on Thursday, March 1st. Mandy was asked to be at the Mt Hagen base for their arrival to document everything. It's a difficult situation to photograph people in their suffering; that needs an extra portion of sensitivity.

In addition, she drove some of the patients to the hospital. The ambulance vehicle did not provide enough space for everyone so she along with three more MAF staff accompanied the group of four injured people and their care-givers.

Two days later, she and Lois, another MAF wife, visited the earthquake victims at the hospital. Anita, one of the emergency nurses who was on duty when the patients were admitted, led Lois and Mandy to their ward. All patients recognised Mandy with a big smile. That was really touching and a great relief after she had seen them in total shock two days earlier, especially Aube.

Given their experience, all patients are fine. They are well looked after by the hospital staff. Praise the Lord that no one has broken bones. Please pray for their full recovery in body, mind and soul.

Lois and Mandy prayed with each of them and gave them some clothes and toiletries. Lois had prepared for each a bag of yeast rolls and chocolate cake and gave the little boy a Jesus colouring book and crayons. His eye was clean and open! The smile on his face showed his gratitude for the little present. What a difference from what he looked like two days ago! Even Aube, his mother, who was totally traumatised and in shock on Thursday, smiled! Impressive! What a beautiful woman, despite her head injuries! Due to the trauma of the earthquake, she has not yet spoken. They were frightened by the earthquake so Aube decided to walk to a village nearby. As they were walking, a dry branch fell from a tree on top of them. Aube sustained a blow

Aube with her two children and her caring friend



to the head with multiple lacerations, and the boy's right eye was injured by falling objects and was very swollen.

Nagei lost her whole family during the first earthquake. She was the sole survivor of a group of about 13 people that were buried by a landslide while trying to get to Komo to sell goods at the market. Severely injured, she was carried to the next airfield. She has badly swollen legs and large, painful bruises on her back. She also greeted the two MAF ladies with a smile. She hesitantly speaks a few words in her tribal language.



Photos like these may give you a glimpse of the isolation of individual villages and the individual extent of the damage: landslides have torn entire homes and people apart and destroyed their gardens. The masses of mud, stones and trees pollute and clog rivers and deprive people of their livelihoods. Garden produce and clean drinking water have been destroyed and this has left people desperate for their daily needs; not to mention the trauma of repetitive massive earthquakes and fear of the future ...

TOOTHACHES IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

German dentists use their skills in Papua New Guinea's remote places

The worries of an earthquake probably make toothache seem small ... But what can you do if the pain stings and your jaw is swollen? Clench your teeth and endure the pain? Or somehow remove the tooth, even if you only manage to remove the dental crown? ... Not a really pleasant idea, right?

At the beginning of January we were able to meet Immanuel Funk and Stefan Müller. They returned with their (our...) friends Gerhard and Brigitte Stamm from their two-week mobile dental clinic in Niksek and Moropote. Immanuel, a very experienced dentist, and Stefan, who just graduated with a dental degree from university, have invested part of their annual leave for the people here in PNG. Their luggage consisted of 90% of a mobile dental clinic including anaesthetics.

Immanuel and Stefan, professionally dressed in their white uniforms, head torches and special dentists' glasses, set up their clinic at the communities' health posts. With the sweat constantly running down their faces, Immanuel and Stefan examined their patients and extracted a lot of teeth, most of them being roots where the tooth had either half rotted away or had not been removed professionally. These extracted "souvenirs" were



neatly packed in small plastic bags and given back to the patients to take home. Some patients who weren't Christians were afraid that these relics might be passed on and used by local witch doctors for animistic harm against them.

This certainly wasn't a holiday for the two dentists, but an eye-opening experience in serving remote communities in a unique physical and spiritual way.

"People didn't only come to see the dentist," Gerhard said, "they came to have 'open heart surgery' and wanted to hear God's Word. I taught 23 sessions, sometimes three sessions a day. On top of that, Brigitte and I had many personal meetings to counsel

people and to pray with them. We were shocked by what we were told as people were deeply stuck in animistic beliefs and bondage; women, young and old, told us how they get maliciously and nastily treated and raped. It really made us sad."

"It was so worth it!" stated Gerhard. "It was draining at some points, but to see so many people walking hours from nearby villages to Niksek or Moropote, being open and hungry to hear God's Word and coming to us for counselling and advice really lifted our hearts."

If we had not just arrived from Germany, we could have had a free dental treatment on our veranda! ;) ;)

Photos: Gerhard Stamm

AMBI — A NEW AIRSTRIP

A community persists to finally get their airstrip operational

What is this wood-liana weave good for? The people in Ambi live a good day's hike from the nearest airstrip. Within the last year or so, they have now carved their own out of their hillside. All handmade! To make the ground solid and firm, stones from the river valley had to be towed up to the

airstrip. Therefore, you could almost say this weave is like a wheelbarrow...

Luke, Mathias' training captain, recently made the first Caravan landing in Ambi. The joy of the people was enormous. Now Ambi is linked with MAF for medevacs and other transportation needs of its people.



A LOT OF OFFICE-HOURS

Earthquake media releases

Because of the earthquake and the associated reporting needs, Mandy has found juggling these with all her other MAF (communications) responsibilities and managing our household quite a challenge... She still can laugh ;) but is fairly exhausted at the moment...

Photo: Andrea Rominger



RACHEL AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Changing the future through education and good deeds

In our Christmas Flight Recorder, we told you about our colleague Nawi and how Christmas is celebrated in his home area. As a Christmas present for his village he had RACHEL in his luggage, an offline education server, which he wanted to introduce in his home region. RACHEL stands for Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning.

Nawi reports:

"It has been a really challenging undertaking to give RACHEL to the underserved but a VERY SATISFYING experience which my family and I really enjoyed.

The people of Morehead Station and surrounding villages showed overwhelming appreciation when presented with the RACHEL offline server and for receiving training on how to use it, including turning the information in it into practical actions. Despite not everyone receiving a tablet device purchased from the funds raised, the desire for people to learn was tremendous. Even neighbouring villagers who attended the training were greatly intrigued by this innovative learning method and are now eager to have RACHEL in their villages, having realised the simplicity in learning made available through this platform."

For Nawi and his family, this special Christmas holiday also meant giving up some comfort and luxury: they had to wash themselves and their clothes in the river.

Nawi's home base is in the southwest of PNG, a few nautical miles from an Australian island. "I'm on holiday but still doing what I enjoy doing with MAF - helping save lives by getting people to medical attention! I ended up twice on Saibai Island (Australia) this week ferrying people needing critical medical help, this time not using planes but dinghies!"

Be inspired by two quotes that inspire Nawi to do what he does:

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. [Nelson Mandela]

Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart. [Zig Ziglar]

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ for people like Nawi, Immanuel and Stefan who use their vacation to help people in the bush of PNG.
- ▶ Mathias is now flying the Caravan without a training captain.
- ▶ Mandy's work permit has been approved. To collect her visa, she gets an extra holiday stay in Australia, probably at the end of May.

PRAY WITH US

- ▶ for the people in the earthquake affected area. Some villages might need relocating to survive in the long term.
- ▶ for enough resources to help the villages in the earthquake area
- ▶ for our team members who are relentlessly coordinating the relief operations.
- ▶ for safety in maintenance and flight operations. The stress is enormous due to the additional earthquake relief missions.



STAY CONNECTED

Mathias & Mandy Glass
c/o MAF PNG LTD
P.O. Box 273
Mt Hagen, WHP 281
Papua New Guinea

Mobile Mathias +675 7214 1289
Mobile Mandy +675 7481 3388

E-Mail:
mathias_mandy@gmx.de

Website: www.maf-pilot.de

MAF GERMANY

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Stumme-Loch-Weg 7
57072 Siegen

Tel.: (+49) 271 701 4780

E-Mail: kontakt@maf-germany.de

Website:
www.maf-deutschland.de



DONATIONS

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Sparkasse Siegen
IBAN:

DE77 4605 0001 0001 2658 26
SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1SIE
designated use: M. Glass, PNG

To support us via an MAF branch in another country please contact us for the relevant details.