

September 2018

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mandy & Mathias Glass

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Listening to the Audio Bible is usually a group activity, even more so in an oral culture like PNG which values fellowship and relationships, but also where many people lack literacy skills.

DEAR FRIENDS

“Great works, do not always lie in our way, but every moment we may do little ones excellently, that is with great love.” St Francis de Sales, On the Love of God

The last three months were filled with lots of rewarding encounters and seeing MAF’s impact on remote communities and individuals. Some of the stories in this Flight Recorder illustrate the value for MAF’s continued need to provide air-service to remote communities in PNG where other operators just don’t fly to.

Mathias has already logged more than 450 hours flying the Cessna Caravan since January. MAF PNG is transitioning to a Caravan-only fleet and – praise the Lord! New pilots joining the crew create extensive training needs; for those new pilots but also for Mathias even though and also because of his wealth of experience in flying in PNG since more than 11 years. July did see us move to Wewak for 10 days so Mathias could fly with one of our most experienced Caravan pilots and to get checked into some new airstrips in the two Sepik Provinces.

On many flights in August, one of the new pilots sat next to him in the right

seat to observe the daily flying routines (standard operation procedures), paper work, customer relationships and unexpected challenges. Looks like, that there is a trend starting: On Satish’s first day of observer flying, the guys had a flat tyre on landing and an unplanned overnight in the bush. On Wilfred’s first day flying with Mathias, the Caravan got bogged because of a soft spot on the runway. Mathias very much enjoys his training role and to pass on his knowledge of the terrain and weather pattern. After completing his Supervisory Pilot training this week (which is the first step to become a Caravan Instructor Pilot), Mathias will hop in the right seat and then will show Satish new routes and teach him to land at the different airstrips.

September will see us move to Rumginae for a week, to fly in the hot and sticky lowlands of Western Province to cover for a pilot on leave.

Mandy keeps enjoying her role in Communication and gets hold of more



stories than she can process.

October will see us escape to Sydney for some much needed holiday, including a missionary enrichment retreat.

There isn’t space to add our usual points for prayer and praise, but hopefully they can be easily gleaned from what we’ve written.

Thank you, as always, for your interest, support and prayers.

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy

COMBATTING POLIO IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Actions taken to prevent further infections

The first suspected case of Polio in 18 years has been confirmed in PNG on the 28th of April. Polio vaccination levels had been very low before the outbreak occurred.

In early August, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that there are now three confirmed cases and 55 suspected cases of the deadly virus that attacks the nervous system leading to paralysis and death. Children under the age of five are considered the most at risk of contracting Polio, a disease for which there is currently no cure. In the most serious cases, survivors are left with permanent life-changing disabilities. Meanwhile, at least 9 serious cases of Polio are confirmed in PNG.

In response to the recent outbreak, our MAF flights have been assisting health workers to reach remote villages to prevent the outbreak spreading to neighbouring areas. On the 8th of August, MAF flew a team of health workers out of Tsendiap, Jiwaka Province, where they had been carrying out Polio vaccinations and raising awareness amongst the community of how the disease is spread.

Mandy happened to be on that flight coming back from her village stay at Dusin. While the Twin Otter got unloaded, she mingled in the crowd and just picked the right person to talk to, who happily shared what the team achieved. During their three day stay at Tsendiap, the team first fixed the solar powered fridge that holds the community's vaccine stock so staff at the local health post could continue to administer vaccinations.

Matilda (pictured), one of our national staff members who is doing flight scheduling and programming here at Mt Hagen, knows the struggles and challenges of this virus infection. Since she was 3 years old, she has had to lean on a crutch to walk. Read her story [HERE](#).

With the recent outbreak of Polio in PNG, the MAF Leadership Team organised for our Mt Hagen based MAF team and families to get vaccinated. Plans were made in conjunction with Susu Mamas and the Health Department so that the vaccination day was held at our MAF workplace at the 24th of August.

The two of us didn't need the vaccination as our immunisation is still intact.



BELIEVING GOD AND SERVING HOLISTICALLY

MAF provides bi-weekly Clinic Runs to 10 remote villages for Kompiam Hospital

"Thank you to MAF for being so willing to partner with Kompiam District Hospital to make outreach visits to the remotest parts of PNG possible. It is such a blessing to provide health care to a people who are so grateful to receive it. Enga Baptist Health Services vision is "Believing God and Serving Holistically." This regular clinic flight initiative with MAF allows this vision to be expanded and fulfilled." Ann Hallett (pictured),

Director of Nursing & Midwifery Services at Kompiam Hospital.

When we returned home from our stint in Wewak, we flew Ann and her team (a midwife, two medical students, a dental technician, and a pastor) from Kompiam to Malaumanda for a 24 hour clinic, including two cool boxes containing various vaccinations (pictured). Ann shared what was accomplished:

- Measles vaccination was given to 27 children under the age of one year;

catch up measles vaccinations were given to 135 people older than one year.

- Tetanus boosters were given to 168 people.
- Vitamin A supplementation was given to 206 children .
- Worms are also endemic in areas of PNG. One of its most common side effects is anaemia, thus worm tablets were given to 168 children.
- On top of that, 135 routine immunisations for preventable diseases such as whooping cough, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus and polio were given to children under one.
- 10 women came for antenatal care.
- There were 110 other people seen for medical care. Common diseases included malaria, malnutrition, anaemia and skin disease.
- The Dental Technician assisted many villagers with toothaches.
- The Pastor spoke at length with the people of Malaumanda about the Christian faith.

Job well done! All in 24 hours!





BIBLES FOR NUNGWAIA!

The hunger for God's Word is hard to come by

Like many of our pilots, Wewak based pilot Michael Dupuis often takes his Bible Box on board. Often enough, the Bible Box resources get sold out after the first or second landing. The demand is high. Recently he just couldn't keep up with the requests at Nungwaia. A few years back, Mathias re-opened the airstrip in the Airvan; back then, Mandy was on board too.

Hearing Michael's report and with Mathias' Sepik Caravan introduction coming up, Mandy got permission to spend a day at Nungwaia to find out more about the people's hunger for God's Word.

Mandy even met the old woman who at the reopening of the airstrip run towards Mathias giving him a bilum. What a lovely encounter!

Nungwaia is the centre of a bigger community spread over four villages and more than ten hamlets. People living at the airstrip are continuously buying Bibles for those living further away. Recently, a Nurses' Christian Fellowship conference under the South Sea Evangelical Church was held at Nungwaia where many attendees bought a Bible straight from the plane.

The Bible is a great resource for us. It gives us guidelines for our personal and community life. We don't have any bigger issues in Nungwaia. Many have come to Christ recently, stopped drinking and smoking drugs, realising the Bible is true and full of good advise, also in regards of family/marriage problems.

Paster Hesekiel

In each service we have people repenting and coming to Christ. Therefore we need more Bibles to give to those new believers. One box (of 40) is not enough, we need more, at least 2 or 3 more boxes! The box I bought today is for one of our local churches.

Mathias, Station Manager

We as mothers really like the Bible Radio (Audio Bible). Many of us can't read or have bad eyesight. The Bible Radio is our chance to hear God's Word, when we are busy cooking, or when we work in the garden; we can carry it around, wherever we go. It's also great for the children to listen to, it has songs and some Sunday school lessons on it too. Thank you so much for this great resource!

A Sunday School Teacher

HAND AND FINGERS CUT OFF!

The consequences when a man has two wives...

On the 22nd of August, after Mathias landed with a medevac'd patient from Maramuni on board, our base staff swung into action to assist Angelina with a number of kind deeds.

Nancy, who is normally monitoring the HF radio, pushed the wheelchair to the aircraft and then held the little baby boy so Angelina could be assisted by her mother to get down the stairs of the aircraft.

Later, Matilda, who is responsible for our flight scheduling, handed the woman some medevac care bags,

the ones Mandy regularly organises packing events for. This immediately prompted our interim base cleaning lady, Lornah, to open up the baby bag to dress the little baby boy. Sally, our Ticketing Officer, organised a bottle of cool drinking water, which Angelina really appreciated. Later, Lornah grabbed a clean cloth to wipe off Angelina's dusty face.

By the time, the ambulance arrived, Angelina could smile again after feeling the love and care of our base staff after all that happened the day before. Going to her garden, she was followed by the second wife of her husband, who then attacked her and chopped off her left hand and also some fingers of her right hand leaving her bleeding quite heavily. Being related to one of our base staff, whom the family called at night, they learned about a MAF plane landing at Maramuni in the late morning hours. This mobilised the family to carry Angelina through the night for many hours to the airstrip to eventually get to a hospital.

Please pray for Angelina that the wounds heal well after receiving surgery at the Mt Hagen General Hospital. But also pray, that she can overcome the trauma of this attack and see God's love and care for her amidst all the sorrow and confusion. Lois, one of our MAF Hagen ladies who lives close to the hospital, regularly visits her and other patients.



PICTURE WALL FROM MANDY'S TIME AT DUSIN

Mandy accompanied Fiona, our new Finance Manager, during her 5 day village orientation to a remote village



The people of Dusin are taking ownership of their airstrip: Every Tuesday they come together and work together keeping the grass on the airstrip short so our aircraft can land safely. The airstrip is their lifeline to the outside world! Imagine cutting your lawn with a bush knife only! Would you still do it faithfully? On Mondays, the people help the health worker to look after the aid post's yard and his garden; Tuesday is airstrip day; On Wednesdays they help the pastor and on Thursday they look after the mission station's area.



The old man in the left picture is the magistrate. He is blind, so we gave him the "Bible Phone" as a present. He loved it and his eyes were glowing in appreciation! He still does his duties as a magistrate and tries to keep law and order in place. He needs to be walked to places he needs to go. But now, when he is home, he can listen to the Bible, some teaching or songs. He started joining into the songs from his new Bible Phone. It was lovely! The other two men we could bless with some reading glasses. Look at the man's Bible on the right picture: What a testimony of his love of God's Word!



Susan, the MAF agent's wife looked after Fiona and me well. One morning, we went with her to the garden to harvest different types of Taro, some greens and pitpit. She cooked it in bamboo sticks over the fire and a couple of hours later we could enjoy a very yummy lunch!

STAY CONNECTED

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