

October 2019

M&M FLIGHT RECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 46



After its arrival on 27 September, the MAF Mt Hagen team dedicated the new Cessna Caravan P2-MEW in prayer to God and for its service for the people of remote PNG

DEAR FRIENDS

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

The Bible. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Saying goodbye and parting from good friends seems to be a big topic for us this past year: in July, the unexpected promotion into glory of our dear friend Gerhard Stamm; this past weekend, the farewell of our neighbours, colleagues and friends, the Meeks family (photo) as they move on to serve with MAF at Mareeba, QLD. In November 2018, our neighbours on the other side of the fence left because of their son's leukaemia diagnosis. At the beginning of 2020, another family is leaving ... Every farewell stands for friendships, life shared together in joy and laughter, through tears and frustrations...

In our 10 years with MAF PNG, we have seen many families come and go. Farewells, whether foreseeable or unexpected, are painful. Every time, a piece of ourselves goes, and with it a

sense of security and stability. Over the years this is not necessarily getting any easier just because you get used to saying goodbye, as we are one of the longest serving expat staff with MAF PNG. At the same time, 10 new expat families have arrived at MAF PNG in the last 12 months. 10 chances for new friendships!? Or 10 chances to let go again anytime soon? Is it really worthwhile to invest in new friendships, when farewells — on the mission field sooner rather than later — are pre-programmed?

In about 2 months we will be going to Germany for our home assignment. This is also a time of meetings, investing in friendships, and then letting go again, saying goodbye...

And yet — it is worth it!

Life is beautiful because there are and have been people who have

invested in our lives. We can decide how we want to influence other people's lives. We can leave behind blessings and be blessed by others. Investing in people and relationships always pay off, even when they are temporary and require initiative.

Thank you, for investing in us, actively supporting our ministry through encouraging words, your prayers, your financial gifts. Thank you for not getting tired!



Daniel, Laura, Ellie, Gemma, Tom & Mathew



MEDICAL PATROLS TO REMOTE VILLAGES IN THE JUNGLE

Two German medical students acknowledge MAF's service

As medical students, we have to do internships during the semester breaks anyway, so we (Leni and Clara) thought to ourselves: Why not combine it with a little adventure?! Our idea: one month internship in the highlands of PNG!

The Kompiam District Hospital, which can use any amount of support, welcomed us with open arms. The Australian doctor, David Mills, has been there for 20 years and has established a lot during this time: a hospital in the middle of the jungle, offering inpatient care for about 50 patients and an additional two hours of consultations for outpatients with minor ailments on two afternoons per week. Despite their suffering and pain, the sick often walk for hours from the surrounding villages to Kompiam, to the "tall white doctor", with the hope of alleviating their symptoms.

But what are patients doing in more remote and distant regions in PNG?

Thanks to MAF, even some of the tiny and remote villages in the PNG highlands have access to medical care.

Through cooperation with MAF, medical staff from the Kompiam Hospital, as well as medicines and equipment, regularly reach these jungle regions.

During our stay, we experienced two of these "patrols" of two days each. The Indian MAF pilot Satish picked us and our equipment up at Kompiam airstrip next to the hospital and, after a 20 minute flight (with stunning views over PNG's jungle) lands safely in the village of Yenkisa.

The sound of the MAF Cessna Caravan's engine announces that it is time for the people of the surrounding area to head for the runway and report their complaints to us. What we see most often there are malaria, pregnant women for monitoring, inflamed wounds, contraceptive questions, joint pain from hard physical labor, tuberculosis.

Seriously ill people can fly back to the hospital for further treatment with the MAF aircraft as an ambulance.

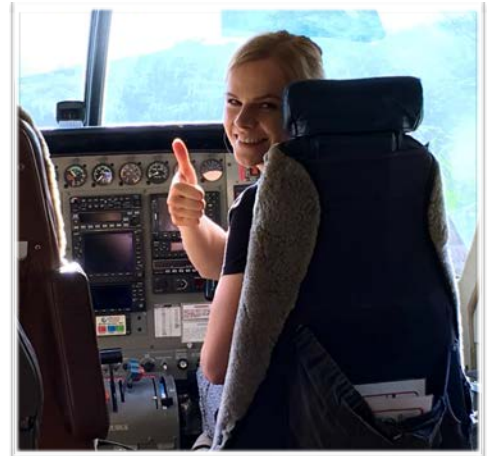
After two days of a huge variety of diagnoses, we get picked up by the German MAF pilot Mathias Glass and his Dutch copilot Piet and get safely flown back to Kompiam.

With us in the aircraft flies a highly pregnant woman, who will give birth to healthy twins the next day at the Kompiam District Hospital (photo below left).

With many new impressions and some interesting experiences richer, we return to Kompiam and later to Germany to finish the last semesters of our medical studies.

Thank you MAF, for this experience! Your engagement and services in PNG are valuable as gold.

Magdalena (Leni) Bonleitner



Every two weeks, MAF flies a team of medical staff from the Kompiam District Hospital for a 24-hour clinic into one of 9 villages where they supervise a small local health facility. "95% of the sicknesses we never see here. The hospital may be half empty, but that is because all the patients are out there in the villages. They often are never seen. This last one has a hernia. He needs an operation at Kompiam. It's not that the cases are not severe enough, but we would need a lot more flights to the hospital." Dr. David Mills

SERVING GOD AND THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

It's a privilege. It's an honor! It's a joy!

Hello,

I'm a 22 year old Papua New Guinean and I just finished all my flight training at Nelson Aviation College in New Zealand. Could you give me the contact details to which I can hand my CV to? I really wanna start off my career by flying for MAF as that would be me saying thank you to God for helping me thus far in my flight training.

Thank you.

About two years ago, in August 2017, this message was received by Mandy on our MAF Papua New Guinea Facebook page. The inquiring person was referred to MAF Australia's website (<https://maf.org.au/transformation/>) for more details about a career as a pilot with MAF in PNG and encouraged to take it from there. Mandy's response ended with good wishes, "All the best and God bless – and maybe you'll soon become part of our MAF PNG team!"

And now, in October 2019, Joseph Tua, from Pangia in the Southern Highlands Province, is indeed part of our MAF PNG team!

Recently Mandy did an interview with Joseph. Here are a few highlights.

What does it mean for you finally to sit in the left hand seat of a Cessna Caravan, beginning your training to become an MAF PNG Pilot?

I didn't expect to be flying an aircraft as big as the Caravan so soon, to be honest! At the flight training school, we were used to flying the smaller, lighter ones and then to go from that to a relatively bigger and heavier aircraft was quite something. I was a bit nervous at first – not sure if I would be able to fly the Caravan – but then I was also excited! I'm someone who

loves a good challenge and this felt like a good challenge – hehe – and I mean, everything happens in its own timing and if this was the time, then bring it on!

To be sitting in the left hand seat of a Caravan and starting my training to become an MAF Pilot is a big privilege and a huge honour! I don't think many people get a chance like this and I am just blessed. But at the same time it is stressful – I feel the need to perform to a high standard and sometimes I question myself if I am able to do this or if I am worthy to be doing this, you know?

But my biggest drive right now is to serve God and the people of Papua New Guinea. And so far, flying around the Western Province bringing medical staff from the Aerial Health Patrol Project to villages, doing medevacs, and shuttling people in and out of various isolated places has just been a joy.

What was the most joyful experience you had flying in Western Province so far?

It's just flying the people around and seeing how grateful they are to be going home or to be receiving their supplies. The smiles on their faces – I live for that.



Joseph on Independence Day, 16.9.2019

Being a PNGn flying in your own country for people living in remote communities – how does that feel?

It's an honour! A privilege and a joy! You can see how much these people rely on air services and just how grateful and appreciative they are when you land and park up. It's more than just flying – it's about the people. PNG is more than just the province I come from, it's everyone from the Highlands to the Coast and we do our small part by providing an air service and I hope – sooner rather than later – that proper roads and services reach these isolated communities. Some of these communities are just so isolated you get taken back to the past when you land and see them.



Joseph working through the different cockpit check lists (pre take-off, take-off, cruise, etc.) to memorise them & prepare for flying (May 2019)



In the cockpit with Mathias: Joseph went on a few observer flights to get a grip of what's like to be a MAF pilot (May 2019)



Loading the aircraft is also part of a pilot's job. This was during Joseph's base orientation in early May 2019.

WE ARE GETTING READY TO COME TO GERMANY!

Meet us at different speaking engagements

We have already confirmed some speaking engagements during the months of January and February. We would love to see you there and touching base with you:

17 Dec	6:20 am	Arrival at Frankfurt
5. Jan	9:00 am	JuMiKo Stuttgart ➔
6. Jan	3:00 pm	Afternoon of Fellowship, CG Karlsruhe ➔
12. Jan	10:00 am	Church Service, FeG Horb am Neckar ➔
18. Jan	7:30 pm	Mission Night, Auhausen ➔
3.-5. Feb		At the Office at MAF Germany
5. Feb	7:00 pm	Mission Night, Bischoffen
9. Feb	9:30 am	Church Service, EfG Wetzlar ➔
10. Feb	7:00 am	Bibelschule Brake
16. Feb	10:00 am	Church Service, Stelle
17. Feb	7:00 pm	Flyers' Café Hamburg
23. Feb	10:30 am	Church Service, Hoffnungskirche Bremen-Walle ➔
29. Feb	2:00 pm	Flight Club, Gaststätte am Flugplatz Neuhausen-Cämmerswalde ➔
8. Mar	10:30 am	Church Service, CG Karlsruhe ➔
15 Mar	10:00 pm	Frankfurt, flight back to PNG



P2-MEW ... A SPECIAL REGISTRATION

A testimony of well established partnership

P2-MEW is the 5th of the 6 brand new Cessna Caravans C208, MAF PNG is receiving this year as part of our fleet transition to the single type C208 fleet. The registration P2-MEW honours the long-standing relationship to the German Lutheran Mission 'Mission EineWelt' (Mission One World; <https://mission-einewelt.de/en/>)

On Monday 30 September, after the thick morning fog finally lifted, Mathias took off with our brand new Cessna Caravan P2-MEW towards Yambaitok for its first operational flight, onboard a pastor and another passenger. Waiting at Yambaitok was our MAF PNG Ministry Team which spent the weekend on invitation by this community to run an outreach program, sharing the gospel in different ways to encourage the congregation there. Preparing for departure, some of the community posed with the pilots and outreach team in front of the new aircraft acknowledging their appreciation for MAF.

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ for 222 medical evacuation flights that MAF PNG was able to fly in the first half of 2019
- ▶ for 10 new families arriving in the MAF PNG team over the past 12 months
- ▶ for a refreshing and relaxing retreat with our friends from Liebenzell Mission in Cairns, especially Mandy's extra week there with Brigitte afterwards

PRAY WITH US

- ▶ for Brian, who has bravely fought through chemotherapy and has now started going to a real school after only knowing homeschooling. Pray for his whole family who moved to a new assignment with MAF US in Idaho
- ▶ for Brigitte and the Bible School in Aviam, who have to face their future without Gerhard
- ▶ for strength and wisdom to balance our daily lives with the demands of training flights, office work, preparations for Germany as well as times for friends and rest

STAY CONNECTED

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To support us via an MAF branch in another country, please don't hesitate contacting us for the relevant details.