

April 2020

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 49



Shooting a scene for the anniversary movie: "75 Years of MAF - From the First Day Until Now"

DEAR FRIENDS,

"What harm could a man bring to me? With God on my side I will not be afraid of what comes. The roaring praises of God fill my heart, and I will always triumph as I trust his promises."

Psalm 56:4 The Passion Translation

Who would have thought that the world around us would change so much between our last Flightrecorder edition and the current one? At that time, we wrote that we were looking forward to getting back to our home in Mt Hagen, to friends, neighbours and colleagues, and having a routine and regular working days. Well, we're still looking forward to getting back to Mt Hagen! Since March 15th we have been stuck in a small motel in Cairns. The "Tree Tops Lodge" belongs to MAF and Wycliffe and enables us affordable and safe accommodation.

With many countries closing their borders even for transit, we managed to depart Germany a day earlier than planned. To be honest, it was quite a hassle (as suitcases weren't packed at this stage...) but very exciting! We arrived just 6 hours prior to the new Australian law of 14 days of mandatory

self-isolation for international travellers, starting at midnight on 15 March. Legally, we did not need to self-isolate, but MAF International insisted. We were still allowed to see the flight doctor for Mathias' airworthiness certificate, but our onward journey to PNG on 19 March was definitely on the line...

That day though, left us a bit in shock as we heard that another of our Caravans C208 in PNG had had a landing accident which resulted in an immediate safety stand down of all our MAF PNG operations.

Ant then, on 24 March, like many other countries, PNG also closed its borders to foreigners.

As you, we are following the events unfolding around the Corona pandemic from our small apartment.

We established a regular work rhythm, and pray and trust in God that

He'll lead us all safely through these unexpected events and show us the next steps as to stay put or move on.

We really appreciate your continuing support and prayers through these uncertain times! Please let us know how we can pray or support you too!

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy



MEANWHILE BACK IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Effects of three landing accidents and COVID-19 on our MAF operation

The past few months in PNG have been quite difficult for MAF. There were three landing accidents. Thank God, the Lord protected everyone and there were no injuries. In all accidents, the aircraft ran off the runway and the propellor hit the ground (which means major engine inspections and new propellers) and twice, the wings were also damaged. One aircraft is still at the bush airstrip and at this time we are unable to get it back to Mt Hagen because of the flying restrictions in PNG at the moment.

As a result of these incidents, MAF PNG is in a state of suspended ops until we can decide on the best way to recommence operations and conduct investigations into the causes and put measures in place to prevent this from happening again. Our MAF suspension of operations happened to coincide with the country-wide lockdown.

As part of this review, Mathias has been appointed Safety Manager. For the future, this means more time in the office and less involvement in training pilots. A compromise that MAF PNG has to make!

Therefore, Mathias' days in Cairns



are characterised by a lot of studying to familiarise himself with this responsible position. Being in Cairns for such a time as this has the advantage to being able to meet with a Cairns based MAFI Safety Manager. The two discuss, rate and eventually approve risk assessments for planned flights to resume flight operations, submitted by our colleagues in PNG.

We've been in regular contact with our colleagues back in PNG, who are all safe and are working (from home) with the PNG authorities. Those of our colleagues who have family members in the "high risk" category were flown to Australia back in the middle of March, before the Australian border closed, as a preventative measure. Like us, they are trying to work remotely as much as possible whilst following the physical-distancing rules laid down by the Government. Colleagues keep asking when we will finally come ...

The first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in PNG on March 22nd. In response, the Prime Minister of PNG, Hon. James Marape declared a state of emergency for two weeks: schools were closed, international and

domestic flights and also public transport were suspended from March 24th. In a speech, the Prime Minister said: "PNG is a Christian country. We are declaring March 25, 2020 a national day of fasting and prayer ..." What a government statement! We ask you to join us to pray for PNG, esp. for the people in remote areas and for those in government who are trying to protect their country.

There are now a total of 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in PNG.

After Easter, the state of emergency was eased slightly. MAF now works to resume flights to a limited extent, initially focusing on health care, which must be approved individually, internally and then by the government.



Although the majority of our PNG fleet sits on the ground, a lot is happening in the background. Managers work overtime.

MAF expects that when the COVID-19 threat has been averted and the government allows us to fly normally again, MAF will be needed even more than before! However, the accidents have warned us and urged us to rethink our flight operations.

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ For all preservation in the three landing accidents in MAF PNG and the current "Home Office Interim", which helps our managers to rethink and reorganise flight operations in various areas.
- ▶ that despite COVID-19 it has been peaceful in PNG so far, our employees and friends are doing well
- ▶ responsible for those who manoeuvre us citizens through this pandemic period, be it in governments, medical and other institutions defined as essential or critical, our employers ...

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ that there is no widespread outbreak of COVID-19 in PNG, especially not in the remote areas; and that people understand, take seriously and obey government instructions.
- ▶ for Mathias as he settles into his new role and responsibilities as safety manager.
- ▶ that we are really looking for and creating ways to share Christ's love with others during this time.

KATHY IS BACK AT AGALI - AND CAN WALK AGAIN!

A Collaboration between YWAM, a bush hospital and MAF becomes a life-changing blessing for a woman!

2. February 2020 - Dr Mills

Kathy has severe gout as I mentioned which has obviously been with her for many years. Many of her joints are badly affected. But she is now up and around walking using a walking frame. She is in excellent spirits and looks very good. I am not sure if she will ever be 100% normal in terms of mobility but I am hopeful that one day she will be able to walk OK without a frame again. This may be many months away. She will need to be on lifelong medication which will need to be flown to her somehow.

But you can reassure her relatives that she is well. I am hopeful we can discharge her some time in March.

Do you remember Kathy? In our Christmas flight recorder we told of a YWAM team (Youth With A Mission) that MAF flew to Agali for an evangelistic mission and met a woman who could only crawl, with open wounds on her feet. MAF was later able to fly Kathy to Kompiam, where the team around Dr David Mills looked after Kathy in the hospital.

You can read the full report on the MAF PNG website. Please click [HERE](#).

Our report ended with the following sentence: What a difference this would make to Kathy if she'd be able to walk again! Imagine! What a huge testimony would this be if Kathy, when returning to her village, could just walk out of the aircraft."



Kathy at Kompiam - 10 February

12. February 2020 - Dr Camy

Here is finally Kathy's picture. She is able to walk with the walker and is on medicines now. She is most probably headed back home next week.



Good bye Kompiam - 18 March



Back home at Agali

16. February - Dr Mills

Medically she is fine to go now, but she will need a walking frame. I am hoping she will eventually be able to move without one but she may need one for life. We do not have one that we can give her unfortunately so we need to find one before we can let her go. I will ask the folk at Kudjip if they can spare one and get back to you.

17. February - Dr Mills

Kudjip Hospital is giving us a walking frame. I will send someone down to get it this week.

That is exactly what happened! The return flight for Kathy and her friend happened the day before MAF shut down. Micha Lucht, of the YWAM team, wrote the following when I was able to tell him that Kathy was back in Agali, with an annual supply of medication: "Thank you!!! Thank you very much! Good news at last! I just really needed it. Thank God! Thank you for your great commitment, it would never have happened without you. Thanks for your work! We, as the team who were there, are really grateful that God and his faithful employees are still active on site, even if none of us are in the country."

MAF FLIES FOR COVID-19

...Not (yet) in Papua New Guinea but in other countries

Although our PNG aircraft fleet is mostly on the ground, MAF is working with government agencies in other countries to fly medical supplies and COVID-19 test kits to affected areas.

On Saturday morning, March 28, at 7:30 am, MAF Liberia pilot Steven Biggs was enjoying his first coffee of the day when his phone rang: COVID-19 was suspected in the city of Zwedru, a 60-minute flight away. Such a diagnosis in remote Liberia could be devastating because there are hardly any health facilities, medical personnel, and no intensive care units

or ventilators. The President of Liberia immediately ordered the Ministry of Health personnel to Zwedru to test. A call from the President to the airport director released MAF to fly the team.

The suspicion of COVID-19 was not confirmed, Steven wrote later. "The director thanked me personally for the quick response of MAF and our availability to assist. It is such a blessing that we are here and available at a time where we can be so helpful. We are working with the Ministry of Health to see if there are other ways we can help at this time."



MAF INTERNATIONAL IS CELEBRATING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

From the First Day Until Now - The Anniversary Clip made in Papua New Guinea



What sounds spark memories for you? ... Birdsong reminds us of spring? A baby's cry celebrates life's first breath. Church bells take us to a wedding day...

For people like Subul and his mountainside community, hearing an MAF plane on its approach towards their village provokes instant gratitude, inspirational hope and life-changing faith.

Our MAF team has made a special film about a village in Papua New Guinea which has been inspired by real-life events, so you can hear that powerful sound too, and see the transformation an MAF plane can make throughout a person's lifetime. The video was inspired by real experiences and draws you into how Subul remembers his life at different stages, with the sound of the flying MAF plane and how it changes his life and the life of the village.

Mandy had the privilege of organising the shooting in the mountain village of Lapalama at the end of 2019 and then helping on the set by translating.

We hope that as you **watch the film** and hear the sound of an MAF plane you will be encouraged and inspired today.



For thousands of communities across the developing world, that sound of an MAF aircraft brings excitement like no other – and hope for a better future.

HERE you can find out more about the film and how it was made.



STAY CONNECTED

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