

July 2020

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 50



Traveling with the mandatory masks in the MAF Caravan en route from Port Moresby to Mt Hagen

DEAR FRIENDS,

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Can you relate?: You are travelling with a specific aim and destination, doing everything right and not really making progress? Either in the car, stuck in a traffic jam, at the traffic lights; or the train or plane is late and the connection does not work. But even as a Christian you can be on the go and not really progressing, growing - you're set to stay put to have a break, a rest, or a maturing period!

That's exactly what happened to us! In mid-March, we left Germany for our next assignment with MAF in Papua New Guinea (PNG). A 3-day layover in Cairns, Australia became almost three months! In Cairns, for us the 'traffic light' turned red! Stop! Pause! The Corona pandemic had resulted in the border being closed and thus the onward flight to PNG was impossible.

Should we turn back, back to Germany? That didn't feel good, it was complicated and far too expensive! We preferred to 'switch off the engine.'

Within the first two weeks and while in self-isolation, this proved to be the right decision: Being in the same time zone with our team in PNG made communication and active collaboration much easier. Mathias' office day gave good structure and meaningful work. After the three landing accidents in PNG between November 2019 and March 2020, there were various tasks and processes to work through and to rethink. In this context, he was appointed Safety Manager for MAF PNG. Meetings with colleagues, partly on site (at a 2m distance...) or via internet conference, including a week of online training, were only possible because we were in Cairns.

Mandy started working in her role as Communications Officer (including Harriette's story on page 2) and took an online course on member care.

Now we have been back in Papua New Guinea since June 9th, thanks to the government's special exemption

response to the individual request from MAF PNG for our entry into the country. These days, MAF PNG faces major challenges, so our team is really encouraged to have us arrive back in the program!

Thank you, for being so faithful towards us by praying, giving or encouraging us by electronic mail! Tenkyu!

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy



FACILITATING A TRAUMA HEALING COURSE

Two women set off to a remote village delivering a very unique message



Often it is the men who are the focus for a mission organisation, e.g as a pilot or Bible school teacher. Women are often challenged with home-schooling of the children and it takes time to find their own place or mission to get involved outside the house and making an impact in the community.

Harriette Knigge, MAF pilot wife, and Caroline Waelde from the Liebenzell Mission both live with their families in Wewak. The men are often away from home, but in mid-March it was the women's turn and the two flew to Moropote to facilitate a trauma healing course. Harriette shared:

The trauma healing course we brought to Moropote explained what wounds of the heart and grief are, as well as how we can help others. We also discussed what God says about all this, what we can learn from the Bible, and what forgiveness is.



These topics are so very applicable in this country where many people do not have access to health care, and therefore die young, and where there is hardly any access to professional help for psychological needs especially for those living so remotely.

We really had a fantastic week. Forty to forty-five students, men and

women, attended the course. Every morning, they gathered for four hours of lessons and another two every afternoon. It was a full program, but we learned a lot together. They shared about their culture and we shared some "Western wisdom"; together we learned from the Bible. We sang, joked, swam in the river, and prayed with people for their personal needs.

We got to know some of the women quite well. They had all kinds of questions about the course and their personal life, and came to us in the quiet moments. It can be hard for them to find a trusted person in the bush. With almost everyone being related, it is difficult to share if you don't want your story to be known everywhere. Caroline speaks the Tok Pisin language fluently so I sat next to her and listened while she talked with the women. Even though I don't know the language fluently, I prayed in my heart for the woman and the conversation. I marvel at the questions they asked; so personal, so varied, and sometimes so basic. The questions ranged from swollen feet during pregnancy to the role of men and women in the church; from the vanilla harvest to problems surrounding the children's education.

In between lessons, I sold a lot of audio Bibles, Tok Pisin Bibles, some reading glasses, and Jesus DVDs. All of these materials, provided by CRMF, come from the Bible box Wilfred (my husband) often has on the plane, which he lent me for this week's course; particular as we knew the people had asked for the audio Bibles.

I admire the strength of the local people. Mrs. A. gave birth just a month ago, yet brought her little one with her in a bilum. Every day, she sat in the front row with another toddler beside her. Mister B. couldn't hear everything in the back, but told us that he is a prayer warrior and prayed for us during the course. If we wanted to write down our prayer points, he could take them home after the course. Mister H. brought his son to the course every day and the child found a nice place to sleep.

As we said goodbye to the students, Luke (the man who sits at the HF radio every morning and afternoon) talked about Covid-19. The message was vague and, listening to it, I got a little sense of what it is like to live in such a



remote village, surrounded by endless jungle and swamps, so cut off from technology and media. You just have no idea what's going on outside your area. Is the news really true? What exactly does it mean? How far has Covid-19 spread now and is it already here in PNG?

We really didn't know either! Caroline and I read Psalm 91 before enjoying our dinner of fish brought by local people: "my refuge, my fortress, my God! I trust you!"

Knowing we will be picked up the next morning and go home to our families, we looked back on a wonderful week. I was so looking forward to teaching this course. I enjoy training and it was wonderful for me to be able to use my gifts outside the house. We have now been out of the Netherlands and part of MAF for over three years, and for the first time abroad I felt it from my toes: Yes, I was made for this!

Photos (Harriette Knigge)

1. Harriette and Caroline waiting for departure in Wewak
2. Harriette talking to a woman during the course
3. Helping each other to find the reference verse in the Bible
4. Selling Bibles to the people



AIRSTRIP SURVEYS AND LIMITED FLIGHT OPERATIONS

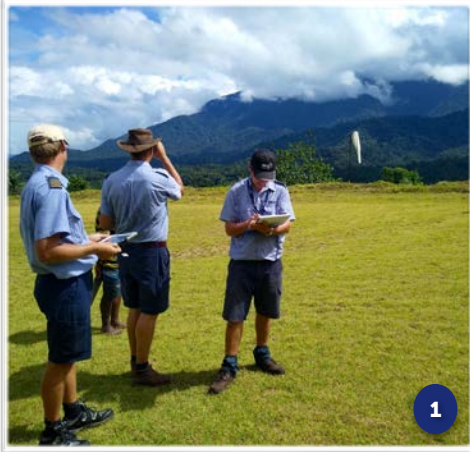
Challenges to overcome

A major factor in our recent landing accidents was the condition of the airstrips. The MAF team is committed to remeasuring every airstrip we operate into and then performing a risk assessment of the survey data gathered. These risk assessments lead to the decision whether or not an airstrip is approved for flight operations by MAF. The communities are then informed about the measures they have to take to ensure that their airstrip again meets the international standards of MAF. In all cases, it is ultimately the responsibility of the villages to ensure that the airstrip is properly maintained, e.g. the grass is mown and also cleared, the approach is free of obstacles (trees), the windsock is in order, etc.

You can imagine that this process of surveying more than 200 airstrips will take some time...

As Safety Manager, Mathias is involved in this process by reading the pilots' risk assessments and making recommendations to minimise the risks.

While Wewak pilot Wilfred Knigge was conducting survey flights, he also had his Bible Box with him and interested and satisfied customers everywhere!



Since July 1st 2020, MAF has resumed flight operations on airstrips that have been surveyed and successfully passed the risk assessment. Now, MAF must also comply with the mandates set by the government under the National Pandemic Act and therefore ensure adequate hygiene and distance rules, including wearing masks on airplanes and recording people's body temperature before and after the flight.

Mathias has his MAF post furlough check flight on July 6th and 7th. After that, he will be used for scheduled service flights of about 20 flight hours per month (up to 85 hours are normal). This ensures that there is enough time for flying his desk and engaging in his tasks as Safety Manager. Consequently, Mathias has been released from training responsibilities for young pilots. However, he will be utilised as an examination pilot for the legally required examination flights which are due for every MAF pilot every 6 months.



Photos (MAF PNG)

1. MAF pilots collecting survey data
2. Community meeting in the shade of the plane
3. Measuring the surface strength by people from the Rural Airstrip Agency
4. Wilfred selling Bibles

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ that we had a blessed 'limbo' time in Australia and have finally arrived in PNG
- ▶ that our house and car only needed a few repairs and we were able to settle in quickly
- ▶ that our MAF team here in PNG so far has been spared Covid-19 and that the virus appears to be very well controlled in PNG (fewer than 20 infections registered since March)
- ▶ that MAF was able to fly weekly medical personnel to villages in the Western Province despite flight restrictions

PRAY WITH US

- ▶ for our small team on site in PNG that faithfully does its job with reduced personnel, financial and operational capacity
- ▶ for our management team, for unity and wisdom to plan the future of MAF PNG in God's will, especially in the field of pilot training and in the operational area
- ▶ for our colleagues, whose travel plans got mixed up due to the global pandemic
- ▶ that the country remains unaffected by an uncontrolled outbreak of Covid-19

TRAVELLING HOME TO MT HAGEN

Some impressions of our long and memorable travels back to PNG



Cairns International Airport: completely abandoned



Covid-19 awareness in Port Moresby



Outdoor office at Kudjip

On June 9th, we checked in at a deserted check-in counter in Cairns for our flight to PNG. We had to quarantine before eventually arriving at our Kagamuga home. In Port Moresby we went straight to the hotel. The small room with two double beds, a small desk and only one chair, and only "fresh air" from the air conditioning would have been really exhausting for two weeks, even though the hotel is one of the best and most expensive in town!

Again with government approval, MAF flew us to Mt Hagen after 2 days at the hotel. The chief pilot personally sat in the cockpit and Glenys, our currently only female MAF pilot, got her route and landing check flight from the highlands to Moresby. Thanks to headsets, we could all talk to each other. Not only did the flight pass very quickly, we also received valuable information about the current situation in MAF PNG.

From Mt Hagen we drove over a thousand and one potholes to Kudjip, a mission station with a hospital run by the Nazarene Mission. There we settled for the remaining 12 days of quarantine in a beautiful guest house and had more exercise and fresh air than in Port Moresby!

On June 22nd, we finally arrived at our Glass House in Mt Hagen - 100 days since we left Germany! Mathias had to go straight up the roof to repair the water system and the next day, he was under the car to repair the clutch cylinder ... Welcome home!



Breakfast on the balcony at Kudjip



Waiting that the header tank trains empty to fix an issue



Fixing the clutch cylinder



Playing games again with Hagen friends

STAY CONNECTED

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