

September 2020

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 51



40 students at a remote Highschool in Western Province became proud owners of their personal Bible. Meanwhile, 40 more got their Bible!

DEAR FRIENDS,

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." The Bible. Psalm 91:1-2

God provides! Again and again we experience this and we can only be amazed and grateful! Grateful for each and every one of you who stands behind us and our work with MAF for the people of Papua New Guinea in praying, keeping in touch, and giving financially. Some of you have been doing this since Mathias first joined MAF in 2007, many for years; others joined our team just recently, and especially in these restless and uncertain times of the pandemic. We really appreciate you!!!

God provides! We experienced that in the three months in Germany, in the "in between" three months in Cairns and now we are already three months back in PNG. What will shape the next three months?

God provides! Also for MAF as an organisation that is 56% financially supported by donations. Through MAF God provides for people in the remote villages: medicines, school supplies,

food, building materials, development workers. In return, sacks of harvested peanuts, coffee or cocoa beans are flown from highland villages back to the city. That is the currently reduced "load" of our MAF planes here in PNG. Passenger traffic is massively reduced; people need a valid reason to fly. Twice a week a team for medical needs including Covid-19 awareness is flown to different villages to stay in the community for 3-4 days; currently a technical team is installing satellite dishes in 30 villages to improve their communication with the outside world.

God provides! We are grateful that flight operations are gradually being expanded and that the jobs of our local colleagues are thus also secured.

God provides! A year ago, MAF PNG bought a flight simulator, which is THE backbone of our pilot training and pilot reviews during the pandemic.

God provides! We are grateful for 12 exciting and eventful years of

marriage and look forward to many more!

The glass is half full, not half empty! Despite all the uncertainties and some ambiguities in connection with the pandemic, can you also see that God provides for you what you need to live?

We hope that you can put your trust in God and that you'll find gratitude in every new day!

Laikim yu, Mathias & Mandy



Happily married for 12 years!

COVID-19 IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

More questions than answers - but life continues pretty much as usual

After initially only 8 confirmed cases in March in PNG it was quiet for a long time. The number of infected people has been increasing since mid-June to more than 500 now, with 6 deaths. In June, it started with people who work in the national test laboratory or on the so-called frontline in the health care system and Covid-19 response centre of the capital ... and since someone can be carrying the virus without symptoms, infected people carried it to other provinces.

Many workers are infected in one mine, leading to the mining town of Tabubil being in lockdown for almost 2 months.

We are not aware that in the provincial hospital here in Mt Hagen any testing has been done; probably they have no tests...

A doctor from a mission hospital in the neighbouring province said that they were given 10 test kits in June when numbers in Port Moresby were increasing - only to have to return the kits the next day as they were supposedly urgently needed in the capital ...

He also confirmed that this is not an isolated case but a fact in many small clinics in the highlands.

People here often have colds with a cough, runny nose and fever anyway. How should they differentiate that from Corona virus symptoms where proper education is another issue? Here, not everyone with a little ailment goes to see a doctor... People usually tend to use herbal and bush medicine, like ginger, lemon, herbs and possibly ignorance ... and life goes on...

Also, who wants to be stigmatised as a virus patient? You might come back after your stay in hospital in quarantine and find only a pile of ashes from your house ... if you are not killed yourself beforehand. This is another way of how the virus can be contained...

Those who wear masks in public, esp. us expats, may get seen that we are wearing them because we have the virus; after all, the virus came from Asians and "whities..." So, do we put ourselves in danger if we wear a mask when shopping at the supermarket? Could this become a security risk?

MAF has a mask wearing policy for working at the office. Passengers must also wear one; that is state law. Some of our aircraft have a protective screen between the cockpit and the cabin. The aircraft must be disinfected after each sector with passengers; this is also required by law.

And us? Mandy has mild asthma. We are more careful, avoid crowds, watch church services online. We live our MAF everyday life, eat healthily, invest in friendships, trust in God's protection.



PILOT TRAINING VIA SIMULATOR AND INTERNET

Special times require special measures ... Modern technology and the Internet make them possible!

What do you do when travel restrictions don't allow for instructor pilots to come to PNG for a check pilot training course?

In August, Caravan pilots Mathias, Arjan Paas and Brad Venter (left to right) get trained virtually using our Redbird simulator. Their instructors are Volkher Jacobson, MAFI's Fleet Training Manager currently quarantining in a Brisbane hotel, and William Nicol, MAFI's former Aviation Director and based in New Zealand.

All three PNG pilots are very experienced trainers already. During this course, they simulate training sessions and each play various roles at times, like the pilot being checked, the check pilot and the observer. They simulate normal upper airwork checks with emergencies and scripted role play.

As in a normal training environment, they start with a pre-flight briefing as realistically as possible. They then do the flight in the simulator, treating it as a real aircraft, and finish off the exercise with a thorough debrief as realistically as possible. With the help of the external instructors, the aim was for Mathias, Arjan and Brad to improve their skills as training and checking pilots in order to evaluate our line pilots within MAF's rules. Special attention was paid to technical knowledge and skills as well as evaluating the attitude of a pilot, such as whether someone has an attitude of macho, impulsivity, anti-authority, invulnerability or resignation.

Sounds interesting, right? How would you rate Mathias? Write to us and explain your "assessment."



WASHING HANDS WITHOUT RUNNING WATER NOR A WATER TAB???

What's a habit for us is a real challenge in the bush of Papua New Guinea

When Mathias landed at Kapal a few weeks ago, he was surprised to see a crowd and a "decorated something" at the parking bay.

Due to unexpected delays in his daily schedule, he had planned a quick turnaround. He was only supposed to pick up the team of medical professionals being there on health patrol that a colleague had dropped off in the village earlier that week. Of course, he had to take his time for the "decorated something."

In Kapal, the team held a hand washing training course. But what to do when there are neither taps or running water in people's houses available? In order to usher in this new

era of hand washing as a preventive measure against the corona virus, the team built several hand washing stations in the village, one of them near the runway. The pilot now had the honour of ceremoniously cutting the ribbon while everyone watched and clapped their hands.

Mathias made it clear that hand washing with clean water and soap is important, especially during this time of Covid-19; that people need to stay healthy and strong and not get sick, and one of the best protection is to have clean hands. Washing hands is far from being a habit in Kapal as it is for us, but these stations are a start - thanks to the health patrol team.



THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ for God's faithful provision in the past months of traveling between Germany, Australia and PNG
- ▶ that MAF PNG's flight operations are slowly picking up again and more and more MAF pilots are coming into the country who were stranded in their home countries or in a transit country because of Covid-19
- ▶ that the landing of the MAF planes is still an encouragement to the people and there is a constant need for Bibles

PRAY WITH US

- ▶ that pilots can regain their usual flying routine after long waiting times and that there are no further accidents
- ▶ that we as a MAF team are saved from Covid-19
- ▶ for one of our pilots (and his family) who recently lost his medical fitness to fly (hopefully only temporarily ...) and who is now an experienced pilot for MAF PNG
- ▶ that the Bibles we recently gave away to 80 high school students in remote Mougulu speak to their readers' hearts

DELICIOUS CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

Come and get a taste of what we're serving at our dinner table

We enjoy having visitors over for dinner! Sitting, chatting "about God and world" as we say in Germany, and eating yummy food are always great fun and a blessings to us and our visitors.

May we invite you to a delicious and very healthy desert? Almost all ingredients are organically grown here in Papua New Guinea.

- 1 large ripe avocado
- 1 1/2 to 2 bananas
- 6 tbsp raw cocoa powder
- 3 tbsp coconut cream (from the top of the can. Don't shake it!)
- 1/2 tsp vanilla essence or seeds scraped out of 1 vanilla pod
- 2 tbsp honey or Maple-Sirup
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1/2 tsp chilli flakes
- Dark chocolate flakes, roasted almonds, raspberries, ...

Cut avocado in half and remove the seed. Scoop out the flesh and add to a food processor or blender together with chopped banana and cacao powder. Whiz up until smooth. Add cream, vanilla, your choice of sweetener. Whisk using an electric

blender until well combined, fluffy and smooth. Fold in salt and chilli flakes.

It's best to refrigerate the mousse to set for around 1 hour.

Garnish before serving.

Enjoy! ... and let your guests guess the ingredients!



OUR MOBILITY "ASSURANCE" — OUR MITSUBISHI PAJERO

Rusty and fuming, old and in need of regular tender, love and care - but still roadworthy!



Our three months home assignment in Germany turned into six months of being away from PNG. Standing still is not good for anyone, neither man nor machine... The clutch pedal of our Mitsubishi (built in 1992!!!) was completely blocked, the piston jammed in the cylinder. Finding spare parts locally is nearly impossible. There is no Mitsubishi authorised workshop; instead, there are lots of small road side car repair shops with 'spare part' cars and scrap metal in the backyard...

Mathias invested a few Saturdays in the maintenance of our car and got his hands oily and dirty, found mechanics who made the clutch work again. The sun roof was also leaking, the rubber was brittle and the metal is rusting. The rainwater drainage pipes clogged and various cable ducts have let water into the footwell... He also glued blackout screen on the windows to curb curious glances into the interior...

In PNG, cars need to have a safety sticker every 6 months. For a friendly conversation and about €15/\$30 the main safety gear of the car often only gets ticked off "working" on the form without actually checking it. You need to pick your garage if your want a thorough safety check of your car.

The 12km long Mt Hagen highway reconstruction from the airport to town is 90% complete. Nevertheless, there are areas, especially side roads, that are very bumpy and only consist of potholes. And somewhere there, Mandy drove over a big metal splinter. A coffee chat with MAF colleagues was long enough that the tyre went flat before she wanted to return home... Go(o)d thing the car was safely parked at another MAF compound. It did cost us less than €5/\$10 to have the tyre repaired!

Roadside repairs are cheap, but buying a car and the annual insurance are not ... We are so grateful that we have this car and can maintain it. It gives us the freedom to be out and about, to go shopping, to visit friends. God provides!



STAY CONNECTED

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Currently no mail is coming through to PNG!

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