

March 2021

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nro 53



A man and a woman seriously injured after a wild pig attack needed a medevac

DEAR FRIENDS,

“I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.”

Jeremiah 29: 11-12 (The Message)

“I could tell that it had been a dramatic event as soon as the team disembarked the aircraft. They all looked like they were contemplating ‘life and death’.” said Israel Neale who was part of a small team responding to an initially very vague medevac call.

Our neighbour and colleague Nawi Mabo, MAF PNG’s Ground Operations Training Coordinator tells the story of the unfolding events, very detailed, very personal, very passionate, very moving, very touching. It’s a very personal account for what happened as the events unfolded, but he goes far beyond this...

The way he wrote it - it’s also a strong reminder and encouragement as to why MAF is still here in PNG and it’s a powerful testimony of the global MAF family.

And you are part of this family too! Through your interest in our work for MAF PNG - through your faithful

financial support, your prayers for us and every encouraging message sent to us, you are also part of this medevac and all other flights that MAF carries out in PNG. Thank you!

We’re fine. The Covid statistics have not yet reached 2000 confirmed cases in this country since March 2020! We could move around freely, usually without a mask, and meet friends. We are privileged compared with you ...

However, an enormous increase is expected in the next few weeks; people across the country are currently meeting en masse for *haus kraus* to mourn the death of their state’s founder. All related events are exempt from restrictions - and you wonder...

It’s been a year since we left Germany. We are tired. Beside all the uncertainties of living in a global pandemic, our work load has been quite challenging and it always flows into life after hours. Neighbours are

colleagues, recreational opportunities are very limited. The team grows, in people, in tasks, and these sometimes overwhelm us ...

We are happy that we now have three weeks of vacation and are grateful that we have found a place at a Swiss mission station where we can switch off, relax and recharge.

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy



WILD PIG ATTACK

Reflexions on the return flight - by Nawi Mabo

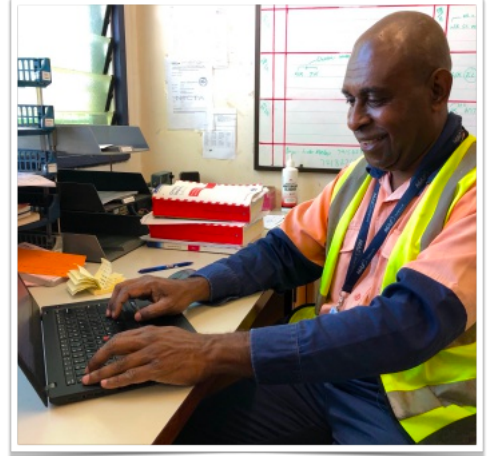
The complete story of Nawi's very detailed and personal account fills 6 pages. Click [HERE](#) for its download. It spans the events from when the first information about a potential medevac was dripping in, recalls the flight preparations, the waiting for approvals, the pick up of the patients and the story of the overly aggressive pig and Nawi's challenges to deal with the situation.

In our Flightrecorder, we only have space to publish Nawi's review as the team flew back to Mt Hagen.

I sat at the rear of the plane. The weather continued to be beautiful. When we reached level flight, I looked out to have a better view around. The sky was magnificently blue dotted by some white clouds. The mountains ridges and valleys were splendid and displayed an array of imposing beauty. The sight of all these provided me a glimpse of how majestic Heaven would be, and where sorrow and suffering would no longer exist.

I thought of the patients who were still in pain. Someday, this would all be over. The faint voice of the injured man thanking us still echoed in my thoughts. It was just three of us who were part of the medevac flight that morning and he was grateful for our help. But there is an army of generous and committed people who beyond the event of that day support our mission to ensure God's love and healing is demonstrated to the people of isolated communities, not just in PNG but in parts of the isolated world. Most of the people who are helped in difficulties like this will never meet these generous people who provide that essential support.

As I contemplated on this, I thought about the time when we all get to heaven and of an imaginary meeting I occasionally picture where someone walks up to you and says, "thank you very much". Confused, you ask him or her why.



The individual responds:

- * "Oh because you advocated for help when I was badly hurt, and a medevac was organised quickly to take me to the hospital and my life was saved."
- * "Oh, because you checked the plane to make sure all was good the morning it came to airlift me."
- * "Oh, because you helped to quickly put fuel in the plane to speed up the whole undertaking to get me to the hospital in time."
- * "Because you helped organise things on the ground and monitored the flight on which I was being transported."
- * "Because you prayed for me when the story of my life-threatening injuries was posted as a prayer request, and God responded by providing guidance to the medical staff who care well for me."
- * "Because you donated to the MAF mission in PNG to help keep planes flying and when no one was able to help, a MAF plane flew in and saved my life."

I could go on and on boasting about the amazing things the Body of Christ does to support the all-important mission of MAF in PNG and other parts of the world, not just through medevacs but in other important work we do.

Everyone who helps and supports deserves appreciation for enabling the love of God to be shown to the needy and vulnerable.

My role here is the Ground Operations Training Coordinator. But in this situation, I found myself the recipient of a crucial call for help.

Responding to this, a group of dedicated people assembled early the next morning and dispatched a flight that as Sally Lloyd perfectly commented "showed these badly hurt people that they are cared for and valued."



RISE & SHINE!

More than just a well attended youth event

In PNG, the months of December and January are holiday months. Schools, colleges, and universities are closed. Students and teachers are travelling home to their villages – and consequently back to major centres as school resumes early February. During these two busy months our MAF operation is moving more people than any other time during the year.

Knowing, that people are back in their remote location often also triggers churches to plan big events. So it happened at Dodomona, a small village located in the middle of dense forest on the foothills of Mt Sisa, between the Strickland River and Mt Bosavi. The people belong to the Edolo tribe of about 3000 people, with about half at Dodomona and half at

Huiya. They are very closely related to other surrounding tribes as the Biama from Mougulu.

On January 14th, MAF flew two pastors from the EBC (Evangelical Brethren Church), Petrus Tumbo and Moses Kapak to Mougulu. Unfortunately, the pilot had landing restrictions for the short runway in Dodomona, so that the two of them had to undertake a two-day march to actually get to Dodomona. They were invited as guest speakers for the youth event of the ECPNG (Evangelical Church PNG) in Dodomona, and were able to travel with heavily subsidised church fares in our MAF plane.

On January 25th, Mathias picked them up directly from Dodomona, which they really appreciated.



They reported that although it was actually a youth event, there were people of all ages, young and old, about a thousand. Some of them walked for 3 to 4 days to get there!

"Many gave their lives to Jesus. We estimate about 250 people, students and community leaders, who came up front during the week speaking a dedication prayer. After the Sunday service, 107 people, mainly from the younger generations were baptised in a nearby river," reported Pastor Petrus.

"During the event, reconciliation happened between church leaders too. And a call to get more actively involved in church work and become a pastor was answered by 37 people," added Moses. "This was the first of its kind in the Bosavi-Strickland area. There's surely more need for events like this and we will go back again God willing," stated Pastor Petrus.

Along with the youth convention went a celebration of Pastor Siale's son who was the first-ever Edolo graduate from University. He's going to teach and minister at the Mougulu Highschool.

The connection between the ECPNG and EBC pastors goes back more than 10 years as Pastor Steven and Pastor Moses both attended Bible College together at the EBC campus in Lae.

What a great way to reconnect and partner together, with MAF doing its part to help with transport where there's no easy way in and out – for the glory of God and to challenge people to make a commitment to give their lives to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour!

PNG IN 2-WEEKS OF STATE MOURNING

"Papa bilong Kantri", the nation's founding father, has died

On February 26, 2021, Sir Michael Somare, the first prime minister to lead the country to independence in 1975, died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 84.

It is significant how our MAF administration manager also places himself in the row of those who show this man last respects. He wrote in an email to all employees:

"As a nation, we respect and honour our chief leader who dedicated his life to serve the people of this beautiful country – PNG, from pre-independence up till his resignation as member of parliament. He is the chief engineer and master architect that set PNG into independence and has since then been in politics until his official resignation a few years ago.

We mourn along with the people of PNG - especially the East Sepik people

which he has represented in parliament in his long political career. May God's perfect peace, comfort, and strength be with late Sir Michael Thomas Somare's family, his tribe, business associates, political alliances and the many loved ones he leaves behind.

We salute you – PNG's Father of the Nation! May you rest in eternal peace."

There are major events held in his memory all across the country. He is going to be buried at his property in Wewak, which now becomes the Somare Museum & Mausoleum, located opposite the Liebenzeller Mission home ...

After his burial, we expect an enormous increase in the number of Covid infections and wonder how PNG will cope with that ...



AVIAMP — A BIBLE SCHOOL FOR THE ORDINARY ONES

... and one which is very close on our hearts

It's this time of the year again when MAF moves a lot of students! Between the end of January and into the first two weeks of February, every Tuesday for 3 weeks our Wewak plane carried families and single men heading to attend the SSEC Highlands Region two years Bible and Character Development School Program, based at Aviamp, Popun in the Jiwaka Province (SSEC...South Sea Evangelical Church).

It's a small Bible School, established by the German Liebenzell Missionaries Gerhard and Brigitte Stamm, and, after Gerhard's sudden death in mid-2019, completely run by a team of three local Bible School teachers and pastors.

The Bible School is not aiming for high academic grades. The aim is to train pastors from and for rural placements on how to live a godly life as a family, how to understand, teach and preach Biblical truths, and how to lead a church.

Pictured below is the last group of three pastors and their families from along the Sepik Highway with Wewak based Liebenzell Missionary Manuel Feige who sent them off to the highlands.

Manuel said that these men were already pastoring a church in their villages, however, they've received no formal training – until now. They were all excited to arrive in Mt Hagen and warmly welcomed by the Aviamp Bible School families when Mandy drove them there.

The weeks before, the Wewak plane brought in a young family and a single man from Ambunti and two single men from Nungwaia. Besides them, there are other attendants from Lake Kutubu and Simbu Province.

Small Bible schools like the one in Aviamp run by the SSEC are vital to the spiritual health of believers here in Papua New Guinea, especially in remote places. These men and women who later become pastors and church workers cannot afford to study at a formal Bible College and many do not have the academic background to do so either. These local education options allow them to have a garden and feed themselves, while at the same time applying themselves to a deeper study of God's Word; they remain connected to local communities while they learn." Such a tremendous benefit for Kingdom impact!



Only in PNG!

What to do if your favourite shirt falls apart after almost 8 years? You can still wear it one more time, right? And surely for another day and another one... In PNG, no one is bothered by frayed seams and faded colours anyway!

And then I see it hanging between other dresses at a second-hand shop here in Mt Hagen, like back then in Wewak, the same radiant blue flowery print, my size, for less than \$3!

What a special blessing! What a personal encouragement from heaven!

Just a few weeks ago I too felt a little frayed and drained from the full and stressful everyday life. And then this message: I see you. I take care of you... Thank you, God!

And on top of it all, a friend turned the old shirt into a lovely handbag!



STAY CONNECTED

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