

September 2021

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 55



Photo Annelie Edsmyr



DEAR FRIENDS,

Then he [Jesus] said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27

The approach to the green grass runway has to be perfect: 420m, 5.6% slope, a bump included. This is Sibilanga, a small, bustling village in the Torricelli Mountains of West Sepik Province. In 1959, the Palai people asked for a missionary. The Tucks from New Zealand accepted this invitation and a mission station was established, and 7 years later an airstrip opened.

"Mission - a place characterised by dwellings, school, church, hospital and other facilities operated by a religious group for the purpose of providing charitable services and to propagate religion." We found this definition on the Internet.

It actually expresses well what still characterises Sibilanga: people have settled around the airstrip; there is a vibrant Christian church and our pilots

sell out instantly when they open their Bible box; there is a health centre, a vanilla cooperative, the primary school is expanding into a High School.

"We certainly could not have done it without MAF!" were the words of the first missionaries even then. Exactly these words are still valid today, because it is the MAF planes that bring plywood sheets, corrugated iron, nails, cement, paints, chalk, pens and notebooks and much more to Sibilanga.

In July, Mathias did 4 building material charter flights for the school extension. Mandy had time on the ground to talk to the local people. "We certainly could not have done it without MAF!" were the words she repeatedly heard.

"We certainly cannot do it without you!" Thank you for supporting us so

faithfully in our calling to serve with MAF through your prayers, gifts and encouragement! So you fly with us to Sibilanga, Kompiam, Malaumanda ... Thank you!

Laikim yu, Mandy & Mathias



Photo Annelie Edsmyr

FIGHTING TUBERKULOSE IN REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The often undiscovered danger in the remote villages in PNG

"If we couldn't see, diagnose, and bring these children back for treatment, it is likely the disease would have progressed on and may have eventually led to their deaths," reflects Dr Rebecca Williams when realising that their initial suspicion of a TB diagnosis was correct and Mia and Masi had received surgery and were started on a treatment.

Malaumanda is a village in the border area of East Sepik Province and Enga, with around 300 people plus children living around the airstrip/station but with a few hundred more living in the catchment area of the airstrip, about 30- 120 minutes walking distance. It's a very remote area, surrounded by very big mountains and steep valleys.

To travel out to Wewak would take about 3 days walking through the jungle, followed by 3 days on a motor canoe. There are no other villages nearby to Malaumanda within one or even two days walking distance. There's no mobile phone coverage in the village, people hike 4 hours to a nearby mountain to catch a signal.

There's a small aid post in the village, monitored by two village health volunteers one hour a day, Monday to Saturday. Diana and Didimus are helping the community with what they can during the week on a volunteer basis. The village gets the chance for more professional clinics and medical treatment 2-4 times a year when MAF flies a medical team from the Kompam hospital in to do 1-3 days of clinics.

During these patrol days, Daina and Didimus help translate the local language when the doctors examine the patients; and at the same time the two receive hands on training from the doctors.



Dr Rebecca Williams, who led the patrol at the end of June, is Medical Superintendent at the Kompam District Hospital under Enga Baptist Health Services. Joining her was Dr David Moore (UK, working with New Tribes Mission and currently based at Kompam) who did most of the examinations under Dr Rebecca's supervision to get more experience in the area of rural health and medical needs.

Lucy and Jessica, Community Health Workers from Kompam, were also part of the team focussing on immunisations and health awareness for the adults.

During the clinic hours, Dr Rebecca and Dr David attended to almost 50 patients, men, women and children.

Two pregnant women were checked

up with ultrasound. Most cases seen were generalised fungal infection of skin, Osteoarthritis, and suspected TB cases.

Those people with the suspicion of TB were highly encouraged to find their way to Kompam as soon as possible for further examination and testing, and consequently treatment. On the flight out, the two young girls and their care giver found space on the plane. A young man, probably around 20 years, followed ten days later on a different MAF flight.



Photo Annelie Edsmyr

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Continues...

Dr Rebecca shared:

"Mia and Masi, age 5 and 8, were seen by us during clinic in Malaumanda, and had a positive family history of TB (their father had been treated for pulmonary TB in Wewak some years ago). Their mother brought them in to see us as the older girl Masi had a swelling on her neck that had persisted for several months. On examination and with the positive family history of TB, it was highly likely that she had TB of the lymph nodes. We then asked for her to bring in all her other children so we could screen them also. The younger sister Mia also has similar neck swellings suggestive of TB lymph nodes. Their mother was advised to bring the two girls to Kompiam so we could do a biopsy and run the samples through gene X-pert, prior to starting them on TB medications.

"When we returned on the 24th June back to Kompiam, we brought these two girls along with their guardian. The next day we did a biopsy of the lymph nodes, which came back positive for TB and they commenced with TB medications immediately.

"They will remain in Kompiam for 2 months of TB treatment before going back to Malaumanda where they will continue their treatment for another 4 months. If we couldn't see, diagnose, and bring these children back for treatment, it is likely the disease would have progressed on and may have eventually led to their deaths. We also know that there must be some people in the community with active TB, as TB bacilli are only spread by people who have pulmonary TB i.e. a cough and children typically contract TB from adults rather than other children."



all 3 photos by Dr David Moore



Info Box Kompiam Rural Hospital

Kompiam Rural Hospital, along with 10 other health centres and aid posts, is situated deep in the remote north of Papua New Guinea's Enga Province, an area listed as one of the most disadvantaged in PNG. Jointly known as the Enga Baptist Health Services it is a ministry of the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea.

Kompiam has become a major training centre for overseas medical students, and has had a key role in the development of training for rural doctors in Papua New Guinea...

More Informationen: <http://kompiamhospital.org>

FLIGHTS FACILITATING THE KOMPIAM CLINIC PATROLS

Because of MAF the doctors can see patients in the jungle

Since 2018, MAF has been regularly flying medical staff from Kompiam to 7 bush aid posts in Enga Province that are only accessible by air. At the end of June, Mandy had the opportunity to witness the work of the Kompiam clinic team in



Photo Annelie Edsm

Malaumanda and to document it with her colleague, Annelie. They conducted interviews with the clinic team and the villagers, took photos and video recordings.

Some of it can also be found on MAF PNG's new [Vimeo](#) channel.

What a blessing these clinic flights are for the villages! However, they are only possible because they are completely subsidised by MAF. The hospital cannot afford the airfare ...

Thank you if you will prayerfully consider helping to fund this project and make such life-saving flights possible.

Donations towards Kompiam Clinic Patrols

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Sparkasse Siegen

IBAN:

DE77 4605 0001 0001 2658 26

SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1SIE

**Verwendungszweck: Kompiam
Klinik Flüge PG9999-029**

Tenkyu tru!!!

Please do not forget to include your name and address so that a tax deductible donation receipt can be issued to you in the following year.

Contact details for MAF Germany can be found on page 4 of our Flightrecorder

GERMANY 2021

Not doing the normal routines of a home assignment

In the Bible verse we selected for this Flightrecorder, Jesus affirmed the importance of rest. The biblical example of Jesus often retreating to a quiet place to meditate, pray, and renew himself is a model for us all. In his ministry, the constant demands of the people meant that Jesus needed and took regular breaks to recharge his batteries.

We have been working for MAF in PNG for over twelve years now. The past four years have been the most intense ones, and the pandemic has just put the icing on the cake...



Photo Annelie Edsmyr

Already 2 years ago, we intentionally asked MAF for a longer break. Our sabbatical is currently pausing our responsibilities in PNG (apart from some odd but important emails and the occasional online meeting).

We are also not touring Germany giving presentations as we have been in previous home assignments. Our time here is characterised by seminars and workshops to consciously reflect on past experiences - the good and the bad..., to invest in our marriage and to engage in some academic training for our respective jobs in MAF. For Mathias it means some advanced training on topics such as flight safety,

accident investigation and management systems.

Mandy's courses are all about software training for layout and social media.

There are also times for family visits, day trips, church and friends visits, as well as long walks in the woods, which occasionally spice up our dinner with culinary delights. Don't worry, not everything we pick ends up in the pan!

We have already surprised some people when we spontaneously stood in front of their door or joined their Sunday service in person...

In 2023 we will come back to Germany for a classic home assignment with presentations and sharing about our service with MAF in detail again. We promise!!!

On November 23rd, we are to fly back to PNG. We then need a lot of extra papers for the return journey to PNG, above all the entry permit from the National Control Centre in PNG.

The turn of the year is the most flight intensive time for MAF in PNG and where every pilot is needed. Because it's the main holiday season in PNG, people want to travel and visit their families in the remote villages; and in February, everyone wants to fly back to their schools and workplaces...



Thank God with us

- ▶ for a successful CASA audit at the end of May. We have even received a 4-year operating license from the Aviation Authority (CASA).
- ▶ for the arrival of the 10th Cessna Caravan P2-SDP, which will be used specifically for health patrols in Western Province.
- ▶ that we made it to Germany in time for Mandy's mother's 70th birthday, and to see family and friends, to recharge our batteries
- ▶ for a valuable debriefing seminar at the beginning of September and some more opportunities to participate in various workshops to equip us for our respective jobs with MAF in PNG

Pray with us

- ▶ for a blessed pilots' meeting and the subsequent family free time of our international colleagues in early October in Mt Hagen, as well as the women's conference of our local colleagues
- ▶ for new pilots, engineers and managers who can strengthen our team
- ▶ for Christians in PNG to stand firmly in faith and on the basis of the Bible, to be a good witness their families, neighbours and colleagues - especially with all the information overload in our fast-paced society
- ▶ that our return trip to PNG on November 23rd really works out and that we return to PNG strengthened and encouraged to start our next 2-year term

STAY CONNECTED

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DONATIONS

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