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MI&MI FLIGHTRECORDER



Christmas News from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 56



LIEBE FREUNDE,

“The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is not just a one-time story, but as an eternal gift.”

Martin Luther, Reformer

My first official working day as MAF PNG's Safety Manager after our stay in Germany began with a disaster. As every day, the MAF employees of our Mt Hagen headquarters were gathered for devotions and prayer at 7:30 a.m. when some phones rang and a worried mother jumped up and ran home. A tree just barely missed a MAF staff house and caused some damage. Welcome back to PNG!

Our trip from Germany to PNG, however, was uneventful. The PCR test the day before was negative for both of us although we only received the results when halfway to the airport. Phew! At the check-in counter in Frankfurt, we showed our 18 pages of special permits and were checked straight through to Port Moresby, PNG. After arrival in Port Moresby we had to undergo another Covid-19 test, which

was also negative. We enjoyed the rest of the day meeting friends and MAF flew us home to Mt Hagen the next day.

We were in Germany from the end of July to the end of November. Several family celebrations took place in August and it was nice to be part of them! Traveling in the pandemic is more than challenging and has to be kept very flexible, so it was not certain whether we would arrive in Germany on time. We deliberately used the rest of the time in Germany for relaxation and further job training for both of us. Now we are excited to see how God uses our newly acquired skills.

You encourage us so much by your participation in our service with MAF and we'd love to share this juicy melon from Yenkisa with you, which I received there today after my third

landing. I first dropped a team from the Kompiam Clinic Patrol and then did two more passenger flights.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and God's blessings in the New Year!

Laikim yu, Mathias & Mandy



MIRACULOUS PROTECTION

Not the Christmas tree you would wish to have in your house...

It's early in the morning. A 1-metre-long chainsaw cuts into the 42-metre-high, approximately 24-tonne eucalyptus tree. 6 men, who think they can steer the tree when it falls into the right direction, hang on a rope attached at about 15m trunk height. The tree is falling - exactly onto our staff apartment blocks! Mandy hears the impact! Thank God and praise to him, that all of our colleagues were warned shortly before and able to leave their homes, some of them still in their pyjamas ... The tree-top even tears the power lines outside the fence to the ground. Sparks fly ...

Within a few seconds, six of our local staff families became homeless and are now temporarily sharing two larger houses on our residential compound. Everyone helped to create space so that they weren't left alone in their shock.

Amazingly, there is hardly any structural damage to the house. The foundations are still intact and the

load-bearing walls have no major cracks. However, the entire front, with doors and windows, and half the roof have to be replaced, as well as water tanks and pipes, solar systems and the power supply. The damage exceeds US\$50,000. The repair is estimated to take up to 6 weeks.

In PNG, the land belongs to the tribes, not to the state. It is not uncommon for second and third generation descendants of those who sold tribal land for development often to seek further payment for land sold, or try to re-claim it. This has devastating effects on local families, especially in urban areas or along the major highways, and it poses problems for electricity, water and sewage companies across the country and so hinders the country's development.

We experienced this at the Bible School in Aviampan and now also at MAF. MAF purchased this land around 50 years ago and built these houses.



OUR SABBATICAL TIME IN GERMANY

A really relaxing and refreshing time

We probably caught the perfect time in Germany. We had super sunny autumn weather and, except for some mask-wearing requirements here and there, there were hardly any restrictions. We really enjoyed it!

Mandy's mum's 70th birthday, time for ourselves, time for family and friends, time for various workshops and training, time to try new things (archery - absolutely brilliant!), handcrafting incense cones (a special thing from Mandy's area), church services at different supporting churches of ours, a visit to MAF Germany's HQ and meeting its new CEO, a Carrera-Racecourse tournament (we didn't quite make it into the quarter finals but easily into the final quarter, haha), short holidays in the Zittau Mountains, with friends in Switzerland and in Bad Tölz near the Tegernsee where God blessed us with the experience of a day in winter wonderland, enjoying a hike on through the snow at the Brauneck.

After four months living out of our suitcases, we were ready to get back into our cosy Kagamuga Glass house and were welcomed by friends at the airport and greeted with a newly painted house. After five days of jet-lag and unpacking our household things we got right back into the swing of MAF PNG life.



IN THE MEANTIME IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA?

Impressions from everyday flying - experienced and told by our colleagues ...

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"I flew six teachers from Daru back to Kawito and Balimo respectively. They were helping mark the grade 10 exam papers for schools mainly in the South and Middle Fly area.

Upon landing in Kawito they told me the story of how they tried to make their way back to Kawito/Balimo via dinghy and how they were overloaded,

and the high winds sunk their dinghy!

Luckily, they were close enough to shore and other operators spotted them and they were rescued!

They then got the education department to book their flight with MAF and I had the privilege of being the pilot flying them back home safely. Instead of a full day travel on dinghy, they got home in 30 minutes.

Honoured to serve! All glory to God!"



Pastors pay for plane tickets with 9 kilograms of cash!

Pilot Jan-Ivar Andresen was supposed to pick up three pastors in Wawoi Falls. They wanted to go to Kiunga to attend a pastors' conference.

The three had walked through the jungle for three days to reach this runway. Before checking in, the pastors gave Jan-Ivar a sack of coins weighing over 9 kilograms!

Everyone in their home village had helped raise enough money for the flight.



How to get an airplane dirty in less than a second and shiny again in 15 minutes ...

During a training landing in Fuma, Brad Venter and Piet Muilwijk rolled through a muddy patch in their gleaming white plane and came out the other end almost brown.

It had rained that night and so there were some wet spots on the runway. Fortunately, a few people from the village helped with cleaning and within 15 minutes the Cessna Caravan was bright and clean and ready to go again.

An airstrip serving more than ten thousand people

There were a lot of happy faces when pilot Ryan Cole did the test landing at Mui airstrip. It's been almost 25 years since the airstrip has been used and after a lot of work to restore it, the airstrip is now officially open again and can serve the 14 surrounding villages and the 10,000 people in its catchment.

THANK GOD WITH US

- ▶ for the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation, unconditional love and eternal life that God gave us with the child in the manger and that is why we celebrate Christmas.
- ▶ for a successful year - we stayed healthy and MAF PNG also managed the year well, was able to serve many village communities with flights and even open new airstrips.
- ▶ that no people were harmed when the tree fell on their houses.

PRAY WITH US

- ▶ for a peaceful Christmas here in PNG. At the end of the year, crime increases quite a bit. Pray also for Famiri, one of our employees, who was the victim of an armed robbery on a tour bus on the 3rd Sunday of Advent.
- ▶ that the MAF family leisure time planned for October, the pilot meeting and the celebrations for the 70th MAF-PNG anniversary can now take place in January 2022.
- ▶ for 4 new employees (singles and families) who we expect at the end of January - that their international flights work out and that they find their way into life and work with and for MAF PNG smoothly.

THE TRAIL OF BLESSING

And how you can be a part of it

Thank you for continuously contributing to bringing help, hope and healing to people who are cut off from the outside world by geographical barriers, natural disasters or political unrest.

Thank you very much to all of you who continue to encourage us in a variety of ways - through digital and personal greetings.

Thank you, those who faithfully accompany us in prayer and who are also financially committed - some of you for many years already.



- ✓ You pray for us and support our ministry financially with a one-time or regular donation to MAF.
- ✓ MAF sends us as employees to Papua New Guinea. As a line and trainer pilot, Mathias regularly flies passenger, cargo and emergency flights to remote villages. As the MAF PNG Safety Manager, he is also responsible for the safety of our flight operations required by the Papua New Guinea aviation authority.
- ✓ Mandy has found her place in public relations and is therefore in close contact with many of MAF's local partners and remote communities.
- ✓ Help, hope and healing in a variety of ways can reach many thousands of people in the catchment areas of the more than 150 airstrips our planes operate into.
- ✓ Around 50 partner organisations can travel with MAF quickly and comfortably to remote and otherwise difficult-to-access villages of PNG to do their work and at the same time save valuable time and money.
- ✓ The partner organisations build infrastructure, ensure clean drinking water, take care of basic medical care, share the word of God, enable education and support for small businesses, save and improve lives - serve people in body, soul and spirit.
- ✓ The most remote village communities are given practical help, hope and healing, as well as access to areas and service facilities that cannot be reached by land or can only be reached with great difficulty.
- ✓ MAF and we share what God is doing in Papua New Guinea through our work with MAF.
- ✓ People are enthusiastic to experience what is possible together and with God's help and get involved.
- ✓ God is honoured and allows his stream of blessings to flow over all concerned.
- ✓ And the process starts all over again ...



STAY CONNECTED

Mathias & Mandy Glass
c/o MAF PNG LTD
P.O. Box 273
Mt Hagen, WHP 281
Papua New Guinea

Mobile Mathias +675 7214 1289
Mobile Mandy +675 7481 3388

E-Mail: mathias_mandy@gmx.de

Website: www.maf-pilot.de

MAF GERMANY

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Stumme-Loch-Weg 7
57072 Siegen

Tel.: (+49) 271 701 4780

E-Mail: kontakt@maf-germany.de

Website:

www.maf-deutschland.de



DONATIONS

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Sparkasse Siegen
IBAN: DE77 4605 0001 0001 2658 26
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