

March 2022

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 57



3 aircraft,
4 pilots, 6 days,
21 airstrips,
576 bales -
more than 28.000
mosquito nets
delivered

DEAR FRIENDS,

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Galatians 2:16

Two years ago, a new type of virus turned everyone’s lives upside down. Today, the pictures and news from the war in Ukraine stir us up and make us wonder how this year is going to end...

In PNG, the Omicron variant has also made its round, “visiting” almost 30 MAF families in February. Most employees were only sick for a few days and recovered within a week. Mathias had to fill in for two pilots and take over important flights. We have been spared from the virus so far; or we had the virus without us realising it.

The news about Corona has faded into the background and the war in Ukraine is often coming up in conversations. When I asked why diesel is so expensive, the man at the gas station replies: “War in Ukraine!”

Instead, our everyday life at MAF has hardly changed. We help where we can. In February we spent a few days in

Telefomin, a MAF outstation in western PNG. Mathias helped flying mosquito nets to various airstrips. Another MAF training pilot showed him how to land the Cessna Caravan on six of our bush runways. These airstrips were not new to Mathias, as he has safely flown the Twin Otter and the Airvan there before. For safety reasons, MAF’s rules require renewed instruction with the new aircraft type, for short, steep mountain runways even for experienced pilots. For Mandy the time at Telefomin was also a work assignment. She collected a lot of photo and video material that will be made public by various MAF resource groups on April 25th for highlighting World Malaria Day.

We just returned from a long weekend with Swiss missionary friends on the topic “Loved in order to love.” Whether it’s our everyday life at MAF, Bibles, soaps, time, a kind word, a

greeting, money, an apology, a pain-killer or prayer, chickens or mosquito nets, a cup of coffee and time to listen, and the list goes on... - these are all tokens of human to human love.

Thank you, for your love for us!

Laikim yupela!

Mandy & Mathias



BEYOND SKIN DEEP - BIBLE & SOAP BOXES

A Bibel as a sign of encouragement to stay put - Teachers at a CHW school

Bringing help, hope, and healing - as it is MAF's mission statement - in the form of soap and Bibles wasn't only a blessing for those receiving the gifts, but even more so for the couriers.

Jacob Luiya and his wife Patricia are tutors at the Telefomin Community

Health Worker School. They have a passion to equip and teach the young generation in basic rural health. The couple has been based at Telefomin for a few years now and along with their colleagues, they are just waiting to get the stationery supplies flown in

from Kiunga to finally start the new school year. Having had an unexpected visit from two MAF ladies presenting them with some Bible & Soap Boxes just made their day as they shared in church a couple of days later.

Richie Axon, one of the Telefomin based MAF pilots, recalls their testimony: "Unfortunately, they had experienced some real trouble with various principals over the time. They have been for some time basically saying to God, 'Look, please open up an opportunity for us to go to other places.' They've made applications to other schools, but haven't actually got to the point of leaving yet. They were sharing in church about this struggle that they'd had and the trouble and just how they had kind of gotten to the end of their endurance. And then they shared how these two white ladies came during the week and gave some Bibles and some other things. They took that as encouragement from God for them to keep on persevering here in what they do."



Amazed by the kindness of people - Women at the Wewak prison

"Right now, there are ten women in prison. Two of them have their babies with them," shares Harriette who with her family is based in Wewak where her husband is a pilot flying for MAF.

Every week, Harriette visits the Wewak women's prison to encourage the women there, doing crafts, reading and discussing Bible stories, listening to their stories, and bringing them some glimmers of help, hope, and healing. Mandy has been doing such visits too when we were based in Wewak.

"We want to bring light into a very dark place," Harriette continues. "And we want to bring love, not our own love, but God's love. We want to show them that whatever happened in their lives, they are loved and they are daughters of the almighty God."

"When I got the soaps out, the women were super excited and I

could not give them one or two blocks. No, I could give them like five blocks each, which was amazing for them. I could give the mums with the kids a little bit extra as well to take care of their kids. That was really, really lovely!

"As I explained a bit about the story of where the soaps were coming from - and they really liked the idea of helping the earth by reusing everything or reusing what is possible - the women were amazed by the kindness of people that they would organise something like that for them and then ship it all the way from overseas, so I could give it to them. That's just amazing for them and they felt very blessed."

Eight out of the ten women currently in prison can't read and write or only have limited literacy skills in Tok Pisin. Therefore, the Bibles from

the Bible & Soapboxes went on a different journey to bless another, more literate and educated group of people. MAF flew them from Wewak to Green River to be distributed between the teachers at the Green River Christian Secondary School.

The 3-fold Partnership behind these Donation Boxes

Good hygiene is the key to a healthy lifestyle, but for some people around the world, access to personal hygiene products, such as soap, is out of reach. Beyond Skin Deep, a New Zealand-based hotel supply and recycling company is collaborating with Rapid Relief Team (RRT) to produce and donate recycled soap to people from developing communities and countries across the globe. Hotels save waste soap, which is collected, cleaned, and made into fresh bars. RRT looks after distribution, finding communities where soap is most needed - and found MAF PNG as a partner to bless people in Papua New Guinea with these boxes. The Bible and Gospel Trust is a publishing house in the UK, established in 1932 as a charity, distributing Christian literature and Bibles throughout Britain and worldwide.

- ✓ <https://rrtglobal.org/nz/>
- ✓ www.beyondskindeep.co.nz
- ✓ <https://bgtuk.org/>



576 BALES OF MOSQUITO NETS FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

MAF being one of the leading partners to distribute the nets in remote areas

4 pilots with 3 MAF aircraft in 6 days transported 576 bags each weighing 27 kg and containing 50 mosquito nets each to 21 airfields. These were delivered to MAF in Tabubil, where the gravel road ends and it is best to use a small plane to distribute goods either to villages in the swampy lowlands of the North Fly or to fly over the Hindenburg Wall into the highlands. Also on board, employees who coordinate the distribution of the nets on site, sometimes transporting them further inland on foot or by canoe and motorboat.

Tim Freeman, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) program manager, wrote in a letter to MAF:

"Rotarians Against Malaria is a local Non-Governmental Organization working in malaria control in Papua New Guinea. In 2009 RAM received money from the Global Fund which funds work in Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. The funds given to RAM were to work with the National Malaria Control Program of the National Department

of Health to coordinate the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) to all villages of PNG.

LLINs are distributed to all targeted villages every three years. From 2010 to 2015 this was all villages of PNG but this has now been restricted to villages below 1600 metres in 2022 as malaria is largely absent in these higher zones.

PNG has very poor infrastructure and on the mainland alone, seven different road systems exist which do not connect up to each other. For many other areas, there are no roads or river access and the only way to reach these areas is by air using small planes or helicopters.

Since 2011, MAF has been one of the leading partners for small aeroplanes in the distribution of LLINs in remote areas.

Without the vital services provided by MAF and other similar organisations, RAM would be unable to reach the remote parts of PNG without huge difficulty.

We therefore would like to give our thanks to MAF for a very long lasting partnership which has greatly aided RAM's ability to provide a service to the remote parts of PNG.



ROUNDBABOUTS AND CROOKED CLEFS

Navigation around clouds, thunderstorms and mountains

Our planes fly at an average speed of up to 280km per hour, but if you can only fly in circles, you still won't make any progress.

February was the peak season of the rainy season. Cloud towers were already forming in the late morning on the Hindenburg Wall, a mountain range up to 2 km high that separates the damp and flat lowlands from the high mountains of the Min area. Those who learn to fly here need (almost) no longer fear the bad weather in the rest of the highlands.

A young pilot circulated around clouds to get over the wall in bad

weather. South of the Hindenburg Wall, the planes climb high with many circles, only to descend into the Telefomin valley on the other side of the clouds with many circles. The direct flight would only take 5 minutes, but with climbs and descents, this flight took almost 6 times as long.

Mathias instead drew the "crooked clef" with a colleague when attempting an airstrip check. The bad weather prevented them to fly further into a narrow valley. They had to turn around and continued the training at another airstrip - with success...



Praise God with us

- ▶ for safety while flying during the rainy season earlier in the year. We could not land at all times, but better to cancel a landing than risking too much.
- ▶ for a refreshing and encouraging mission camp with friends from the Swiss Evangelical Brotherhood Mission (SEBM).
- ▶ for the many health patrols flown and new partners to team up with. It is often churches that run the rural health services in PNG and serve people physically and spiritually.

Pray with us

- ▶ for a good handover to the next security officer. Mathias will give up his position in the security office around the middle of the year and will only work in a supportive capacity. His experience as a pilot is used more and more in the training of new pilots.
- ▶ National elections will be held in PNG in the middle of the year again. We don't expect much unrest ahead of time, but we do expect it after the election results are announced. Please pray for good and fair elections in PNG.

A RUGGED MOUNTAIN RANGER TEACHING AT SIMOGU

This is my pride and my aim

Mattresses, blankets, pots, and other store goods appear on the side of the airstrip as the aircraft gets unloaded at Simogu. It all belongs to Michael Aino and his family.

"We could go by rugged mountain roads and cross big rivers," explains Michael before boarding the aircraft at Goroka. "It takes us two days and two nights to get there. When we schedule a flight with MAF we have chances to just fly over by MAF to Simogu. The place where I go and serve is a very remote place. There are a lot of rugged mountains and big rivers. My pride and my aim are that I am a rugged mountain ranger because I go and serve in a place where others don't go and serve. I am proud to serve there because this is my mission."

Simogu is one of the poorest communities MAF is serving out of Goroka, hardly flying any trade store goods in, or taking out coffee as we do for other communities in the nearby Marawaka Valley.

The flight to Simogu takes about 25 minutes. The nearer we get to Simogu, the fewer roads are cutting through the terrain. Grassland patches and huge areas of thick forests are making the countryside with its mountain ridges

and meandering water streams in the valleys look beautiful from above. To overcome this terrain by MAF plane is surely the easy way.

"My travel into Simogu is to resume classes as a teacher at the Wantakia Community School at Simogu, in the Marawaka Valley. This is my mission," continues Michael. "We do have near 350 students in the school. We do have three teachers, but I want to add another one. The school goes up to Grade 6, but I am working towards making it up to Grade 8 next year."

Our MAF pilots know to be flexible when on the ground at Simogu as there's no HF radio nor mobile phone network to book flights ahead of time. Today, an elderly woman is seeking to get on board as she needs medical care at Goroka. It takes time to find a guardian and discuss the payment. At least some of the fare needs to be contributed by the people.

That cash is short in the community is obvious as the pilot opens his Bible Box and advertises the sale. Even though he is quickly surrounded by several people, he only sells two. One father purchases a Tok Pisin Buk Baibel for his boy, telling him to give it to his teacher so he can read it in class.



Chicken Run!

That's one way MAF supports small businesses across PNG!

They chicks need to be transported in the aircraft's cargo pod and not in the cabin.

Flying 3-day-old chicken requires a quarantine certificate from the National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority which the customer needs to bring to MAF at check-in.

There's a general charge of K50 per box, no matter where we fly them.

MAF has some regular customers sending lots of boxes of chicks from Mt Hagen to Wewak and to Kiunga, but there are the one offs too.

When Mandy posted about these "chicken runs" on the MAF PNG Facebook page, one previous customer remembered the following:

"An air cargo consignment of day old chicks got waylaid at Goroka for a couple of days in the 60s. They were let out of their boxes by an unsuspecting Traffic Officer to be watered. So by the time they were all rounded up to be re-boxed they wouldn't fit - they had grown a little!!! Extra boxes had to be found."



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

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