

January 2023

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 60



300 kg of melons and a warm send-off for the MAF team, which was in Pyarulama for an outreach against violence

# DEAR FRIENDS,

**“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”  
Romans 14:19**

The Bible verse for our January Flight Recorder speaks of peace and a good relationships with one another. How timely! ... in relation to a new MAF initiative that brings non-violent conflict resolution to bush villages, and globally, the still ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, along with all the other big and small conflict hotspots of this world.

Here in Mt Hagen, a whole settlement area behind the airfield recently burnt down. Drunkenness led to violence, to manslaughter. In the retaliation process, 15 more people died while houses were set on fire. Innocent people lost their belongings, the roof over their heads, and continue to live in fear.

The world needs peace that transcends all reason and that also loves its

enemies, peace that only Christ can bring, a togetherness that respects one’s neighbour more than oneself, as Jesus exemplified and preached.

Our 2022 Christmas Flight Recorder was a bit tight with reports from PNG... We just didn't get around to it between the normal daily tasks, visits from our MAF Germany CEO and HR Manager, periods of illness, Mathias' 50th birthday, bush overnights, pilot meetings, women’s weekends, Christmas celebrations and, and, and...

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support in 2022. Your interest and commitment to our work with MAF in PNG makes a tangible difference as the stories in this newsletter tell. And they are only a glimpse into what’s happening in PNG with other pilots flying around too

serving the communities and missions in this beautiful country.

We look forward and are curious what this new year holds for us, but we are confident as we know the one who holds it.

Thanks for journeying with us in 2023!

*Laikim yupela!*  
*Mandy & Mathias*



# COMMUNITIES SIGN UP FOR PEACE

**A team from MAF flew with partner organisations to an isolated community in PNG to help people take a stand against violence.**

A new initiative is bringing hope to women and girls in Papua New Guinea as teams fly with MAF to help change attitudes to gender-based and sorcery-accusation-related violence.

Yanamlyn Yana, who works with the PNG Tribal Foundation as the Senisim Pasin Campaign Coordinator, was touched by the warm welcome as a huge crowd greeted the plane at the community of Pyarulama. "As soon as we arrived, I was a bit emotional because the entire trip coming here, the mountains represented something from home, the trees, the rivers, and whatnot. When we landed, the children were there as well as the parents. They were very happy and excited to see us, already aware that there was going to be a programme happening," she said.

"As an NGO, the Tribal Foundation always looks at ways in which we could have a lasting impact on the lives of people."



## Senisim Pasin - Change your Ways

In the Tok Pisin language, "Senisim Pasin" means "change our ways". [Tribal Foundation](#), along with MAF, are encouraging families and communities to change the way they solve conflicts. The third partner in this work is Bread for the World, which is funding six outreaches.

Villagers gave their guests a huge welcome, delivering an abundance of watermelons and other homegrown fruit as a lavish show of gratitude.

Yanamlyn said the project needed to turn around an attitude that violence was an acceptable part of life in the home: "It is concerning as well to know that the community considers it normal. That means that there is a lot of work to do just to help them understand that this is not the way to solve issues. And

that there are other, better ways that an issue of misunderstanding or quarrel can be solved through proper ways of communication," she said.

## Violence in the community

Community Health Worker Matthew Panglass regularly sees the impact of violence: "There were several domestic violence cases. One day, a man chopped his wife on the head, and then they brought her here. And since I couldn't manage it, I called MAF and I referred her to Kompiam hospital. Sometimes there's trouble fighting with gun wounds. Sometimes they fight within the family and the brother killed another brother or something," he said.

Joshua Wari, MAF's Ground Ops Deputy Manager, said: "Some people that we interviewed were honest with themselves, honest with their marriage. Others held back a little bit because we couldn't get them to a secret place."

MAF's Commercial Stores Officer Daniel Kingal said young girls were among the worst affected: "Some of them are sent to forcefully engage in marriage because they don't have schools and other services here. So, the only option is to get married to a local leader, just so they can have security provided," he said.

Yanamlyn said interviews showed that violence was seen as a normal part of life: "Most men, or the few whom I had one-on-one conversations with, think that every man is doing it. And every man in the country must be doing it. That's how they see it," she said.

## The Screening of the movie and its impact

Between 200 and 300 people mingled around the screening area, eager to watch and listen to the Senisim Pasin message, not worried about the threat of rain. Thankfully, the rain held off long enough for families to watch the Senisim Pasin message on the big screen

Yanamlyn said: "Some of them were speaking in their language and Solo [who understands the local Engan language] said when we called for the action, the pledge signing, they



said, 'Yeah, we don't want fights anymore. We want peace, and then we want to sign up for this.' So that was something that a lot of the men were saying. And then they started walking up to sign the pledge. That is what we want to see in Senisim Pasin. They've seen the evidence of what violence has done through the testimonies and the stories of the people in the film. And now they're pulled towards 'What can I do?' And then we give them this opportunity to take a stand with us."

At the end of the night, 43 people, mainly men, signed the Senisim Pasin Pledge and took a step forward to help change their community.

## MAF taking ownership of the Senisim Pasin campaign

Partnering with the Tribal Foundation, taking the Senisim Pasin campaign to rural communities really resonates with MAF's vision to bring help, hope, and healing to people living in isolation and to see people changed by the love of Christ.

With financial funding from [Bread for the World](#), MAF will take the "Senisim Pasin" initiative into remote areas of PNG intending to share educational videos that will help stop violence against women in PNG, starting with 6 communities.



# CHURCH COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WITH NEW PASTORS

**A lively celebration greeted the arrival of a MAF flight which brought new pastors to a growing church**

On 4 November 2022, MAF PNG flew a delegation from the Church of the Nazarene from Mt Hagen to Dusin to celebrate with the community and have a church service to ordain six new pastors (and their wives) into the Church of the Nazarene (CoTN).

Many villagers greeted the aircraft and its passengers with joyful singing. Representatives from the local church, Bible school, and community lined up under the wing of the aircraft to greet their visitors leading them to the small gap in the airport fence to the alley of women waving palm leaves, tambourines or just their arms as they were dancing and singing. Soon, everyone was on their way down and around the bottom end of the airstrip.

There, another group welcomed the people with songs and handshakes, guiding them into the small church building, nicely decorated with flowers for the occasion and full of people sitting on the benches, keen to witness the ordination service. Many others had to find space on the floor or were just watching through the windows and listening from the outside.

## 90 new pastor ordinations in PNG

Only six people in the Church of the Nazarene have the church's authority and privilege to ordain pastors into their ministry. One of them is Dr David Graves, General Superintendent for the CoTN, governing the Asia-Pacific Region of the church.

"I had the privilege of being here in Papua New Guinea, coming to a very remote mountain assembly that would not have been possible to get here without Mission Aviation Fellowship," said Dr Graves after the celebrations at Dusin. We are so thankful for all that they are doing to help us to reach these wonderful people for Jesus Christ and [I had] the privilege today of preaching to the 43rd District Assembly, and also to ordain six new elders in the Church of the Nazarene. The church was absolutely packed with every window full of people looking in and with a large number of people outside listening. God's Holy Spirit was here."

Including the six pastors at Dusin, Dr Graves ordained a total of 90 pastors PNG. In total, Dr Graves ordained 1800 pastors in 2022 into their ministry in various countries in the Asia Pacific Region.



The international delegates along with more PNG based representatives also used MAF's air service to comfortably travel to Kiunga, Madang and Wewak for more ordination services there. There's no road connecting the headquarters of the CoTN at Kudjip with Kiunga nor Wewak, and overland travel to Madang would take two days.

## Projects for Dusin only possible with MAF

Dusin is a place MAF flies quite regularly to, assisting the CoTN with its various projects. The Bible school is only one of them. It's a so-called village Bible school where the teachers go – or fly – to for delivering their lectures on specific topics in Tok Pisin, the primary PNG trade language.

One of them is Ps Isaac Wai, the Children's Ministry Coordinator for the CoTN in PNG. He shares that he has been working in that area for 23 years and that "MAF has been providing a vital service to the remote villages for many years." Since 1997 he has flown with MAF, first in the Sepik, between Aitape, Vanimo and Wewak.

"I'm getting 80% subsidy as I fly to Sengapi, Dusin, Koiniambe, Lapalama or Imane to train the Sunday school teachers there," he said, acknowledging MAF's support for his ministry.

Kafoa Muaror, Field Director for the CoTN for PNG and six other countries, oversees the work at Dusin, where the churches are scattered all over these mountains. "It's for us a great joy to partner with the people over here. We are humbled by the fact that they have the time in the mountains to go from one place to another. It's our commitment and we want to serve Christ and use the people here to be

the hands and feet for Christ," Kafoa said. "Our role is to empower them, and we are so grateful to be able to partner with the MAF in the different places in PNG. Thank you so much, MAF, we appreciate you."

Besides the plans to build and establish an extension of the Bible school, as well as a small retreat centre, the Church of the Nazarene supports the church and community with the local health post. For this, they too rely on MAF flying essential building supplies for the Nazarene Health Services.

## Prayer Box

- ▶ Between the lines of our newsletter you will find many things to thank God for or ask Him for concerning the work of MAF in PNG.
- ▶ We would like to draw your attention to Mozambique:

## Pray with us for Ryan Koher and his family



- ▶ Ryan Koher, MAF pilot in Mozambique, has been innocently in prison since 4 November 2022. He and two colleagues were taken into custody while preparing to fly a relief flight for a children's home.
- ▶ Pray for their release and until then for their welfare and that of their families.
- ▶ **HERE** you'll find the latest information about him

# SOME MORE GLIMPSES INTO MAF'S FLIGHT OPERATIONS

What it means to have a MAF plane land at your airstrip - or when it can't ...

## Nepo can walk again

Do you remember Nepo's story? His house, built on stilts, collapsed on him during construction. Badly injured, he was flown to hospital by Mathias. The twelve-minute flight saved his friends from having to transport him on a makeshift stretcher over rough terrain for two days, which he definitely would not have survived. You can read his story [HERE](#).

He has since been flown back and Mandy met him in Pyarulama during the Senisim Pasin outreach.

Nepo said, "Through MAF, I was airlifted to the hospital and through the work of all the doctors at the hospital - God bless their hands - I am now healthy again. In the 33 years of his ministry, Jesus also met sick people, some could not walk, could not see and so on. They all came to Jesus and he healed them. I am almost one of them."



## When the MAF plane does not come...

Pastor Joe's daughter Julie was unconscious and in need of immediate medical care when Mathias received a call late Saturday afternoon from Ruedi Meier, a long-time friend of ours and missionary with the Swiss Evangelical Brotherhood Church.

The airstrip at Mt Aue is in very poor condition as it has hardly been maintained for many years. Therefore, the Flight Operations Manager did not allow a landing for this emergency. It would have been too dangerous!

So, the family set off for an almost three-day hike across mountains to the nearest clinic...

When the MAF plane cannot come, it also affects other services for the community, such as health and education, resulting in a lack of medicines and teachers...

Read [the full story](#) on the MAF PNG website to find out how Julie is doing...

## Training, Training, Training...

To keep our MAF aircraft flying in the future, pilots are needed to be called into service for MAF. MAF PNG alone has 5 **vacancies!!!** Two new ones came in 2021. Bridget is already flying many flying jobs on her own. Brandon from Canada started training in November. Mathias is currently preparing him for the scheduled flight test, which is planned for the beginning of February. This means briefings on landing sites and flight routes, flying in bad weather with alternative options and completing flight-relevant paperwork, etc.

In February, training will start for Mathias himself. MAF PNG received approval from the aviation authority for single engine instrument flights on the day before Christmas Eve, just as we celebrated Christmas as a team. How great is that!

It is now possible to fly through the clouds on certain routes with our Caravans, which means fewer flight cancellations and more satisfied customers (whether they stay calm as they can't see the ground anymore is an open question...).



## 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](mailto:mathias_mandy@gmx.de)

Website: [www.maf-pilot.de](http://www.maf-pilot.de)

## MAF GERMANY

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

Tel.: (+49) 271 701 4780

E-Mail: [info@maf-deutschland.de](mailto:info@maf-deutschland.de)

Website:

[www.maf-deutschland.de](http://www.maf-deutschland.de)



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