

December 2023

MI&MI FLIGHTRECORDER



Christmas Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No. 62



DEAR FRIENDS,

“Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!” Philippians 4, 4

The plane was loaded with a youth band, including their instruments, guitars, drums, keyboards and huge speakers! They were heading out bush for a youth event in Sengapi, hosted by the Church of the Nazarene.

As Mathias' plane flew around the last hilltop into the valley, he quickly realises that he only has a few minutes to land before a rain shower is going to pass overhead, making landing impossible.

A quick prayer and he starts the landing preparations. The rain is waiting on the opposite side of the village and the landing is perfect!

The equipment is quickly unloaded and brought into the dry. But the take-off is out of the question. Thick drops of rain start beating on the cabin roof and soon it is pouring. For the children standing around it's just pure fun! The rain in the tropics is kinda warm!

There is no such thing as a white Christmas in PNG! Maybe some of you in the Northern Hemisphere are lucky to have one. Enjoy it!

But rather rejoice, because the Lord is near! Whether in the tropics with us, or in the winter weather with you, Christmas means Immanuel, God with us!

Jesus, the Saviour is born, as a Christmas carol says...

Meri Krismas na hepí niu yia!

Laikum yu. Mathias & Mandy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A birthday celebration in a Christmas setting

In a country like PNG, the opportunities for a special evening out are few and far between, but they do exist! For the third year in a row, we meet up with a MAF couple to spend a nice evening together and celebrate a birthdays each. Mathias was one of them! Ready for the festive season, the restaurant was already decorated for Christmas, which gave the evening a special atmosphere.

Christmas, the arrival of Jesus Christ on this earth, has an eternal significance for all people. In PNG, hardly a day goes by without us waiting for Jesus and hoping that he will bring help, hope and healing to the many people in the cities and remote bush villages.

After more than 16 years in PNG and countless discussions about how we can best help people with our flight service, the sobering fact remains that our resources are very limited and MAF will never be able to meet all requests.

2024 looks bleak ahead of us because we already know that we don't have enough pilots... But God is Immanuel. God with us. That may be enough!



Bible Box

Mathias is delighted with the expanded range of stock sold through the Bible box, the small bookshop in the toolbox that the pilots often have on board. There are now comics about people from the Bible.

Privately, we want to expand the range with small solar lamps and devotional books for the New Year. So that people can see the light - in a double sense, so to speak!



Avionics Box

Our mechanics also have their toolboxes, but they actually do contain tools.

Here you can see Maro, one of our Avionics technicians, putting a brand new avionic test instrument into operation.

Mandy shot and edited a **video** about the equipment so that MAF Germany and MAF Switzerland can thank the donors for it.

The new device is a huge technical advance for our team and also a token of appreciation to our hard working maintenance team!



A MUDDY AFFAIR

God has granted us protection!

Kaiam, famous for a muddy welcome party in 2016, when Mathias made the first landing there. People were so happy that they happily smeared the plane and pilot with mud!

HERE is the video from back then...

The runway had been closed since the pandemic. Major repair work was needed. As soon as it rains, the runway becomes slippery and braking is difficult. Stones were needed to make the surface a bit grippier, the surface grass was also removed, water drainage ditches were dug deeper along the sides and a few new herringbones were spread across the runway (which were then filled with stones and sand, of course...). However, the maintenance work had not yet been completed when a Medevac was recently requested for three patients. Special landing permission was granted by the chief pilot and Mathias' office day became a flying day.

The landing went well, as did the braking. Mathias taxied to take-off with a full caravan and then it happened: the left side wheel dug deeper and deeper into the top layer of clay, knocking all the river stones to the side and all 675 horsepower was of no use.

Engine off!

Passengers out! Spates out!



The rain of the past few days had softened the runway. With a concerted effort, the people tried to pull the plane back onto firmer ground with straps attached to the landing gear.

Crack! ... Not good!

Mathias suspected damage to the brake callipers and informed the MAF engineers and the central flight office that he needed help.

However, it wasn't until a good 24

hours later that help arrived. So, Mathias had to spend the night in the village.

MAF chartered a helicopter and sent two engineers with tools after lunch the next day. The chopper was then supposed to take the patients to Mt Hagen so that the aircraft would not be too heavily loaded on take-off. However, the patients didn't want to get on board. Strange...



The engineers checked the brake callipers and found no damage. Interesting, but great! The plane was released, but was to fly directly to Mt Hagen, where MAF's maintenance hangar is located.

Strangely enough, the patients didn't want to fly with Mathias either. They wanted to go to Wapenamanda, to the hospital of the Lutheran Church there, presumably they were not familiar with Mt Hagen as a city and were not entirely comfortable with it...

On the soft airfield, taking off with a fully loaded plane would have been very challenging. So, Mathias was grateful that he only had the two MAF engineers with their tools on board and that the plane was therefore quite light.



FLOODED - WITH LOVE, WITH WATER, WITH WORK

Both in Germany and in Papua-New Guinea

Germany in Autumn

When we see the photos of the storm surge in Hamburg, with the Landungsbrücken under water, it reminds us of the summer day at the beginning of September when we unexpectedly cycled with friends on eBikes from Seevetal via Wilhelmsburg to Hamburg, through the Elbe Tunnel, past the Elb-Philharmonie and through the new Hafen-City...

Hardship and joy are often close together. We humans can hardly see ahead, know when the times will

change. God says, "don't worry about tomorrow" and "remember my faithfulness."

We are grateful for many wonderful experiences and encounters, family times and celebrations, encouragement, delicious hospitality, open ears and interested inquiries, brilliant medical care, a visit to the MAF Germany office, safe journeys over a few thousand road kilometers, stress-free strolls through city centers, relaxing hiking vacations in the Thuringian Forest and on the Swiss Hasliberg!



Todd & Connie-Lou Aebischer



Axon Family

Flooded with emotions

Back in PNG, a kind of flood was also waiting for us, but not made of water. Farewells it was! First from our Country Director couple and recently from the Axon family, good friends with whom we started our service with MAF as a couple in 2009. At times we lived together in Wewak and later we often supported them in Telefomin...

Welcoming new colleagues at the same time is often an emotional balancing act. But we are grateful for everyone who comes!

Flooded with flight requests

The demand for flight requests is still greater than MAF has capacity for. Sometimes, however, it is also due to the lack of capacity of the booking officers, a lack of overview and foresight, a lack of communication...

We are often contacted privately by missionaries and friends to find out where things are stuck in the system. This quickly leads to a conflict of loyalty and/or frustration that MAF is not able to cope despite the modern software and increased staff.



Thank God with us

- ▶ for Immanuel - God with us! That is the reason why we celebrate Christmas every year! God became man, one of us, and yet, God is the Almighty and Creator.
- ▶ for a year well spent - we have remained largely healthy and MAF PNG has also managed the year well, serving many village communities with flights and even opening new airstrips.
- ▶ for the creative upswing at MAF Germany, in the management and on the Executive Board

Ask God with us

- ▶ for safety in flight operations. It is the rainy season and the airstrips are often soft, the valleys full of clouds...
- ▶ for new employees. MAF PNG urgently needs pilots. By mid-2024, we will have fewer pilots than aircraft because families will be leaving for home assignment.
- ▶ for new employees in the MAF Germany office.
- ▶ for the construction work on our residential complex and that the new buildings will be a blessing for future generations of employees.



Training landing with Joel Rominger

Flooded with paperwork

As a training and examiner pilot, Mathias has to write reports. Also, all pilots have to continuously work on course material to ensure compliance with MAF standards. But the flight office knows that they can quickly take Mathias out of his office day to cover for a sick colleague or to fly a medevac.

Hence, he is currently up to his neck with training reports due to write...

But unfinished paperwork by 1 January means no flying. Then he definitely will have time to get it done!

MAF PRAYER CALENDAR 2024

Praying with MAF through the new year

What the lift under the wings is for airplanes, prayer is for the global work of MAF as a Christian organisation. Anyone who likes to talk to God can be connected to MAF in prayer and thus provide uplift. Would you like to pray daily for the work of MAF?

Starting in January, MAF Germany will have a monthly prayer calendar.

Other resourcing groups already produce Prayer Journals or Prayer Diaries. Please reach out to your county's MAF office and be part of something bigger!

LEAVING A TRAIL OF BLESSINGS

And you're right in the middle of it and fully involved! Thank you!

A few administrative notes:

- Please make sure that you note "M&M Glass, PNG" as the intended use if you want the donated amount to be specifically attributed to our work and employment at MAF Germany.
- Would you like to support medical emergency flights or other MAF projects financially? Then ask MAF Germany or your county's MAF office where the need is greatest...
- Please let MAF Germany know your current address, as this is the only way to ensure that you receive a donation receipt at the beginning of 2024. You can find the contact details in the red box below.



Many thanks to all of you who continue to encourage us in so many ways - through digital and personal greetings.

Thank you for faithfully accompanying us in prayer and for your financial commitment - in some cases for so many years.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW ADVENTURE?

Are you interested in working with a multi-cultural, cross-functional team providing vital services in aviation, communications and logistics to those in need in some of the most challenging and remote locations in the world?

MAF is seeking people who feel called to work in overseas mission to fill a variety of key roles such as Country Director, Aircraft Engineer, Finance Manager, Pilot, Quality Safety & Security, Avionics Technician, IT Specialist, Human Resources, Communications Officer and Home School Support Teacher.

There are also opportunities for short-term volunteers (6-12 months).

Mandy currently has a young lady from Canada working in her department, creating content for social media, web and video. That's an awesome opportunity for young people to experience mission first hand but also contribute with their skills to the day to day ministry.

Check out your county's MAF office or this [website](#) for current vacancies!



STAY CONNECTED

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