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M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 65



A rare opportunity for an M&M photo in a remote community. Wanakipa, one of many villages that relies on MAF.

DEAR FRIENDS,

«A cheerful heart makes a cheerful face; but when the heart is troubled, courage also fades away.»

Proverbs 15: 13

We can all understand the above Bible verse all too well, because we have all experienced how events and feelings affect our minds and influence how we present ourselves to the world.

Thankfully, we have so many reasons to feel uplifted. Looking back, we see moments filled with success and joy - moments we are excited to share with you in this newsletter.

Training other people to expand their skills and then seeing how they use them also puts a smile on their faces. Mandy has a new colleague, Aquila, who she and her team are training and we have translated his first two reports on aspects of MAF work here in PNG.

As for Mathias, he's just returned from three intensive days of training with Joseph Tua, who is now approved to fly into nine additional airfields to help the

people there with MAF's flight service. Airfields that fall in the unofficial class "E" category. "E" for extreme or expert. These are short, steep, crooked, sloping, with bumps, exciting wind conditions and, because some are quite new, with soft ground. These are often airfields that are therefore rarely flown to. The people in Dimanbil were so grateful for the visit that they gave the two pilots a handwoven bilum each.

But sometimes we lose heart or there are things that worry us: the many vacancies at MAF, the dirt and rubbish in the city, the violence and other challenges we face.

But this is exactly where you come in: your support and interest in us and our work for MAF give us the strength to carry on and bring about positive

change. Together we can reach the hearts of many people and give them a cheerful face.

Thank you very much for your trust and your valuable support!

Laikim yupela!

Mathias & Mandy



INSIDE VIEW: WHAT I LEARNED FROM MAF MEDEVAC IN MY COUNTRY

MAF's new Communications Officer in PNG, Aquila Matit, shares his feeling after joining a life-saving flight to an isolated community

Just weeks after joining MAF as a Communications Officer, a medevac mission by MAF brought a glimmer of hope to the remote village of Sengapi but also made me feel very sad about the plight of my countrymen.

I embarked on my first flight with mixed feelings of excitement and anticipation. Our mission was urgent: to transport two patients in need of immediate medical attention to Mount Hagen. Time was of the essence, and we had to act swiftly. Sengapi, nestled in the rugged terrain of the Madang Province, is one of those places where access to basic services is a daily struggle. The sight of villagers, many of them being my age of 26 living with limited clothing and education, was a sharp reminder of the challenges faced by many remote communities across Papua New Guinea.

As we landed, I could see people's faces etched with hope and anxiety. The MAF agent quickly came up to us with a smile of gratitude and the pilot, Captain Mathias Glass, greeted him with a handshake.

Next came the medical officer in charge (OIC) of the Sengapi Health Centre, Isaac Kaupa, followed by two patients, one a man in his mid-50s who experienced heart failure and was carried on a stretcher by two men while the other patient, a pregnant mother facing difficulties in delivering, could still walk on her own.

Mathias quickly assessed the situation to determine the cabin configuration for the return flight.

Speaking to the people, I gained great insights into how life with limited health care and the lack of basic services in



such an isolated place is like. I realised a huge gap between their rural setting and my life in an urban area of the city of Mt Hagen. My heart sank, I realised that my nation had a long way to go in terms of service delivery. There was nothing I could do but reflect and appreciate where I came from as a grown up urban young man.

Both patients were carefully loaded onto the aircraft with their guardians. The gratitude in their eyes was visible, a silent testament to the lifesaving impact of MAF's work.

As we took off leaving the village behind us, I again went through a mix of emotions. My heart ached for those left behind, struggling with the lack of necessities. Yet, there was also a sense of fulfilment, knowing that our mission had made a difference in the lives of those two patients and their loved ones.

This experience has deepened my commitment to MAF's mission of reaching the unreachable by over-



coming geographical obstacles, bringing hope and healing to the most isolated corners of PNG.

Watch Mathias flying to Sengapi [HERE](#)

BECOME A BRIDGE BUILDER WITH US!

Airlift or suspension bridge

Samarie lives in the village of Mengamenau in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea. There is no doctor in her village. The mighty Yuat River flows between her village and the nearest health centre. Without a safe way to cross the river, the people of Mengamenau have no reliable access to medical care. This was also the fate of Samarie's twins.

[Watch their story on YouTube.](#)

Building a bridge over the Yuat would save lives. A stable suspension bridge would allow the people of Mengamenau to safely cross the Yuat River and access basic medical care. MAF flights are simply too expensive for the people of Mengamenau. They have no means of earning an income.

In recent years, thirteen people have died trying to cross the river. A bridge would enable the population to cross the Yuat River safely and gain access to life-saving basic medical care.

The fate of Samarie's twins has given rise to a private bridge-building initiative that is collecting donations for the construction of the bridge. Part of the total costs are flight costs with MAF for building materials and personnel.

Thank you if you can help and become a bridge builder!

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[Subject: Flights for Baby Jared Bridge in PNG](#)



TECH TALK SHINES A LIGHT ON DARK SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY

An MAF Technologies team guided a local PNG church on the dangers of social media and how to protect young people.



A team of four from Goroka-based MAF Technologies conducted 'Tech Talk' training with a church ministry in Kudjip called the Community Church Network (CCN).

Caine Ruruk, team leader and MAF Technologies Ministry Partnership Officer, told the church in Jiwaka Province why the training was so important. "Tech Talk is building awareness against the wrong use of technology. We are just warning the churches against its wrong use, the danger it brings to the members of the congregation, especially the youth."

"So, we are dealing with churches, church leaders, the congregation and especially the youths and we are finding out more. It is pornography that we are dealing with in depth, but we are also dealing with social media, video games and just wasting time on things that are not productive," Mr Ruruk added.

Pastor Samuel Igsam remarked on the need for more to be done to help the church, and young people especially. "Such a programme is a need, and since the first training, I have learned how to handle social media as

given a chance to know the bad side of technology but now I am aware, and I would like to use technology only for the right purposes."

The MAF Technologies team were pleased with the number of attendees including four people from MAF's Mount Hagen base, and two from Goroka who were also trained to be Tech Talk facilitators.

"Such a programme is a need, and since the first training, I have learned how to handle social media as a pastor. I am so happy we all have learned something towards change in the community."

— Pastor Samuel Igsam

"Since the arrival of technology many churches and even the government were not prepared to grasp its negative impact. Many Papua New Guineans were only aware of its usefulness and were not prepared to overcome the dark side of it."

The training, though covering the broader use of technology, was focused on the internet and particularly the viewing of pornography and its negative impact on people.

a pastor," he said. "Many of my youths and church members have given positive feedback saying they would want to learn more on this, and I am so happy we all have learned something towards change in the community."

Women and children's representative for CCN, Mary Igsam shared the value of the training. "This is not just an ordinary training but a path into living a holistic life of God's calling for every individual," she said. "I have not been

Give thanks

- ▶ for the positive experiences in the MAF work, especially for the progress of Aquila and Joseph, as well as for the opportunities to celebrate together outside of work and to experience community.
- ▶ for the Klassen family, a new German pilot family, who are joining the team. Pray also that they will settle well into everyday life in PNG.
- ▶ for MAF Technology, who are investing time and labour to train local pastors and church members in the use of social media and the internet, and providing solar and radio installations for church communities.

Pray with us

- ▶ for our neighbour and friend Kathleen, who is seriously ill. She and her husband, one of our aircraft mechanics, were looking forward to retirement in their home village and now this is overshadowed by the limited possibilities of the local healthcare system.
- ▶ We pray for courage and strength to cope with the challenges, such as the many unfilled positions in the team or the violence and environmental pollution in the country. May God grant us wisdom and endurance to continue to bring light.



CELEBRATION-MONTH SEPTEMBER

Working together and celebrating together



On the second weekend in September almost all the local and international MAF women came to Mt Hagen to spend a weekend together. Biblical impulses, good food, a self-defence course and plenty of time for discussion marked the weekend and strengthened fellowship and appreciation for one another.

Meanwhile, the Pope celebrated two Holy Masses in PNG, one in Vanimo and one in Port Moresby...

The second weekend of September, in fact the whole week, was marked by the celebration of the 49th anniversary of PNG's independence. The national flag and its colours of black, red, yellow and white dominated the city. Many people wore T-shirts, caps and clothing in the national colours. As the week progressed, these colours increasingly replaced the blue of the MAF uniform in our office.

Shortly before, there had been a vote of no confidence that confirmed the prime minister with a two-thirds majority, while brutal tribal battles raged in various regions. Just normal everyday life here...



The colourful start to the month of September was Mandy's 50th birthday. Mathias and our friends Siobhain and Ryan organised a great birthday weekend at Ambua Lodge near Tari. This even required a risk assessment not only by the management of MAF PNG but also by MAF International - but not because of Mandy's half century ;) but because of two MAF planes that were stationed at the airfield in Tari for the weekend.



We had the lodge to ourselves and really enjoyed the company and the change of scenery in this dreamlike highland idyll! We also neglected the zero from the fifties and just had fun with balloon animals, soap bubbles, party hats and streamers! :)

I was most touched by the many warm birthday greetings from all over the world. Siobhain organised video messages and card greetings and distributed them in good measure over



the weekend. It was really overwhelming! Many thanks to everyone for their kind words and attention and also for the donations for the bridge project!

To keep us in a celebratory mood, we celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary on the fourth weekend in September and our annual holiday begins on the fifth weekend.

STAY CONNECTED

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