

August 2025

M&M FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 67



A typical scene
from Papua New
Guinea:
Pilots selling Bibles
from the back of an
airplane

DEAR FRIENDS,

«For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.» Hebrew 4, 12

Coming to Germany sharing about Papua New Guinea is tricky as these two countries are so different in history, geography, economy, justice etc. How do you make people in Western Europe experience and feel what we feel and experience when in PNG? This year, we finally managed to simulate PNG temperatures! You only sweat once!

We are now halfway through our time in Germany. The first few weeks were marked by many wonderful encounters with our families, friends, and many of you who have been following our journey with MAF in PNG for a long time. We also got to know some new people and were able to inspire them with God's work using airplanes.

We already have more than 3,500 kilometres on the odometer of our rental car and even visited friends in the Netherlands with whom we worked

together in Papua New Guinea. We also had an awesome day at the MAF flight school in Teuge, Netherlands.

We are encouraged by all the many encounters and find it exciting and interesting to hear what moves, delights, and challenges people here in Germany—personally, as a church, in relation to social and political developments, etc. Thank you for your insights and your trust!

With this flight recorder, we like to share some impact stories from PNG, plus our remaining schedule.

Finally, we would also like to point out an unexpected development that is causing uncertainty about our planned return date to PNG...

Enjoy the read and thanks again for your financial and prayer support!

Laikim yupela!

Mathias & Mandy



Runway Run 2025

Every step counts – and saves lives! Put on your running shoes and get going! A unique running experience for a good cause.

At Runway Run 2025, every movement counts – whether you jog, walk or run at a brisk pace. MAF in Switzerland collects donations for emergency medical flights to remote regions so that people in need are not left alone.

**Saturday, 13. September 2025,
Flugplatz Langenthal-Bleienbach**



When darkness falls and the floodlights come on, a special running experience begins on the airfield runway: choose between 5 or 10 km routes as an individual runner or in a team – or run the 2.2 km route with your family. Become part of a community that is rewriting life stories together. Whether as a runner, supporter or spectator – every contribution counts!

Sign up [HERE](#) to join the run last minute!

Not so keen on exercise? No problem! Even without running, you can make a big difference at the event.

Support the participants with a donation [HERE](#).

The link will take you to the website with all the information. There you will find all the runners and their donation targets. Help them reach or exceed their goals!

Mathias' cousin Joy would also be delighted if you supported her. She is extremely motivated to run 10 kilometres in the Runway Run. Just click below:

>>> Mathias flies, Joy runs! <<<

BUYING BIBLES FROM THE BACK OF THE PLANE

In remote Karimui, there are no roads to connect people to the rest of Papua New Guinea. There are no bookshops. So, how can people buy Bibles?

Mandy's colleague Matt Painter spoke with Pastor Kimin from Karimui (photo on the right).

"God's Word has power," said Pastor Kimin Mauwe, of the Karimui Baptist Church.

"The Bible itself says, in Hebrews 4:12, that God's Word has power and is sharper than all kinds of things – sharper than a sword. "All of God's Word has *pawa* (power)," he said, speaking in Tok Pisin, or Pidgin English.

Pastor Kimin has had ample opportunity to witness the power of God's Word. He began ministry here 33 years ago. He is married to Susan, has a pet cassowary and vulturine parrot, and grows peanuts.

He's also the church and community appointed agent for MAF, giving weather reports and readying passengers and cargo for travel – and he's been doing it for 32 years.

"People here usually buy many Tok Pisin Bibles. When the MAF plane comes to the airstrip, everyone gathers around the pilot, and they buy them quickly."

MAF pilots sell the subsidised Bibles from a 'Bible Box', which is carried on each flight to remote communities.

Sometimes, people from outlying villages wish to purchase Bibles from MAF, and like other MAF agents, Pastor Kimin helps.

"We send a request to MAF. I say, 'There are people here who would like a Bible, the money is here, so bring Bibles'."

It sounds straightforward, but the availability of Bibles in the bush is not something people take for granted.

Pastor Kimin spoke of the limited opportunities to purchase a Bible before MAF sold them from the back of the plane.

"From time to time, if we went to town, we could look for Bibles in the Christian bookshop," he said. "Sometimes, people would find them some place, and they would get them. But the main method we see now, is that MAF brings lots of Bibles. They carry them in the back of the plane and help lots of people who have no way to get to town. Where they don't have the funds to get to town, MAF brings them around to all the airstrips and helps those people.

"So, we see it like this: To get our-



elves to town and back, it's expensive. And if we put our money in the hands of another man, he will consume it, or some of the time, lose it. MAF helps us. They bring Bibles to our hands. This is good. If MAF didn't sell Bibles in this country and bring them to us, all the people in the bush would have a really hard time. But MAF makes it easy for us."

The team at MAF Technologies in Goroka supply Bibles to the pilots.

Johnson Irarue, Administration Assistant, orders and distributes these Bibles.

"Every time an order comes in and I start to pack, I pack it nicely and neatly," he said. "I pack it believing and praying that when this Bible or audio Bible goes out, somebody, a mother or a young man – whatever situation or need he or she may be in – my prayer is that this Bible will become the answer to their needs or to their prayers. So, when I pack it, I just don't pack it anyhow. I pray over it. My heart is in it. And I'm just wishing that when it lands in that person's hand, they will find hope, will see his or her breakthrough, and ultimately give her life or his life to the Lord."



GOD'S WORD CHANGED EVERYTHING!

A chance encounter on a dirt road at Telefomin opens a window into the lasting impact of MAF's presence in Papua New Guinea — where the Gospel replaced tribal warfare with reconciliation and hope.



"Before, we were enemies," the old man said, his voice dropping low as he mentioned this dark part of his tribal history.

"We were enemies: Telefomin with Oksapmin, with Feranmin, with Tifalmin," he said, pointing into the different direction of these places. There was fighting. But when God's Word came, it stopped. Now we work together."

As I was walking home from the women's group with my friend Siobhain Cole, this elderly gentleman approached Siobhain purposefully, took her hand in greeting and began to talk. We stood beside him and were touched by his sincerity.

What had started as a quiet walk after a meeting of the local Baptist Women's Fellowship suddenly became a special moment, which I was able to capture in large part with my camera.

That morning, an older man approached Siobhain with a warmth that only years of life and faith can cultivate. He greeted her gently, as if he had been waiting for this moment.

"God is with you," he began. "I'm an old man. I often pray... and I tell you, I have sorrows, I am crying. But I know God will bless the family of the pilot and the pilot himself. This and all my concerns and thoughts, I place on the

table of the altar of God. That's how I pray."

He smiled, hesitating a moment.

"Once I wanted to visit you and talk to you, but I didn't want to disturb or trouble you... and time slipped away. But now, here on the road — this is the perfect time to chat."

"What's your name?" Siobhain asked.

"Miom Slinger."

Curious, she asked if he remembered when MAF first came to Telefomin.

Miom chuckled. "Oh, I was a very little child... Actually, I wasn't even born yet. My father's generation would know that time. But I was born during that season. I've heard the stories."

MAF began flying into Telefomin in the 1950s, supporting both government and mission efforts by the Australian Baptist Missionary Society (ABMS, now Baptist Mission Australia), which began mission work in Telefomin in the 1940s–50s, focusing on evangelism, translation, education and health.

As they talked, Siobhain asked what MAF had brought in those early days and if he has ever been on an MAF plane.

Miom's eyes lit up. "Physical and spiritual things came to stay with us. The MAF base was in Wewak, and from there it served Oksapmin, Mianmin... all around us.

"Yes, I travelled with the MAF plane — to Eliptmamin, and other places."

Siobhain wanted to know more. "What exactly was it that MAF brought?"

Miom nodded, pointing down the road. "See that canteen? That's MAF. That's a memory. They brought store goods — but also God's Word."

"God's Word?" she repeated.

He nodded. "That's it! Yes. Physical help, yes — but spiritual things most of all. God's Word came down to Oksapmin, Feranmin, Duranmin, Mianmin — all the way around."

"The government helps with physical things," he said. "But MAF — they brought the mission work. They changed things."

As the conversation drew to a close, Siobhain blessed Miom and thanked him — for his prayers, his memories, and for allowing her a glimpse into the legacy of MAF in this region.

Parting ways, she continued her walk, the familiar dirt road stretching ahead — the same road she and her husband,



Telefomin's MAF pilot, have walked countless times over the past seven and a half years.

Telefomin has truly become home for them — a remote district centre hidden among towering mountains.

Still today, the only real connection to the outside world is by air, though a rough road toward the mining town of Tabubil is slowly nearing completion.

And yet, on this ordinary stretch of road, something extraordinary had happened.

Siobhain and I felt the weight and wonder of what Miom had just shared — not only history, but a living testimony of transformation.

Our walk home had become a window into legacy, and a reminder that sometimes, the road brings us exactly who we are meant to meet.



HERE you can get a glimpse into our conversation as I recorded it with my camera.

And **HERE** you can fly along with Mathias, through the Sepik Gorge into the Telefomin Valley.

TOGETHER, LET'S ASK, MARVEL AND DARE!

A few more opportunities where we share about our work and MAF's mission

'Ask, marvel, dare' – that's our theme. If you're curious, ASK where we're travelling to, and if you DARE to meet us to MARVEL at God's work in Papua New Guinea, then see if the dates suit you...

- 31. August, 5:00 pm, LKG Lengefeld, Gewerbering 7
- 1. September, 7:00 pm, Thum-Herold, Obere Dorfstraße 38
- 5. September, 6:30 pm, Dresden Klotzsche (please reach out for more details !)
- 14. September, 9:30 am, Sunday Service Ev.-luther. Heilandskirche Zöblitz
- 24. September, 7:00 pm, Christlichen Gemeinde Karlsruhe, Reinhold-Franck-Straße 44A

For all those who do not live along our travel route, we want to offer an online mission night. So far, we plan one on German. However, if there's a large enough interest from our English speaking friends, then we can do one in English as well. Please, all English speaking friends, let us know asap!!!

Please make a note of Friday evening, 26th September. However, it could also be a date in October.

We still need to clarify the technical details, whether it will be Zoom or Teams or ...

We will send an email with the login details in due course. What do you think? If you have any specific questions that interest you, please let us know...



MATHIAS AS A FLYING BIBLE SALESMAN

When will he be able to open his Bible box again?



On the cover photo and here you can see Mathias in Eleme, where he dropped off a team from the Kompiam Health Patrol in June. There, too, the villagers had a great demand for Bibles. These are always really beautiful and fulfilling moments for a MAF pilot.

However, it is currently unclear when Mathias will be able to take off again with his Bible box. We will not be flying back to Papua New Guinea on 8 October as planned. Being in Germany also means that we can see specialists and clarify things that are not possible in PNG. If it is not life-threatening, you need patience to get an appointment with a specialist. And we only have that the day before our departure. We want to wait for the test

results without stress and will adjust our return flight accordingly.

A pilot is only allowed to fly if he has a valid medical certificate. This medical certificate confirms that he is physically and mentally fit to fly. If it expires or there are health restrictions, the pilot loses his flying licence. This would have far-reaching and exciting consequences for our future...

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Please pray for us that we will remain trusting in God when it comes to Mathias' medical certificate. Whether the result is "yes" or "no" – we want to trust God and go into the future with His peace.

Praise God with us

- ▶ For the life-changing power of the Gospel, which brings reconciliation and turns enemies into friends.
- ▶ For a car that will be available to us free of charge during our stay in Germany.
- ▶ For many encouraging encounters during our travels through Germany.

Pray with us

- ▶ For safety in flight operations
- ▶ For health for us and the entire MAF team.
- ▶ For the management of MAF in PNG, in Germany and on the International level.

STAY CONNECTED

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