

December 2025



M&M FLIGHTRECORDER

Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 68



Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year 2026!

DEAR FRIENDS,

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:5

Have you looked for Mathias in the photo above from this year's pilots' meeting yet?

There's a reason he's not hiding away in the second row or behind some Christmas decorations. Read on for some interesting news in this Christmas edition of our Flightrecorder...

In October, Mathias was unexpectedly admitted to hospital with a heart problem. We are incredibly grateful that the doctors have confirmed that his heart is healthy — a clear answer to prayer. However, it no longer functions properly. After much prayer and reflection, we had to accept that Mathias will not be able to fly for MAF for the time being.

This realisation has weighed heavily on our hearts because serving with MAF in Papua New Guinea was our calling and our joy. After spending three months in Germany, we were looking forward to returning to PNG for another two years.

At the same time, however, we can also see God's guidance in the current circumstances. We are moving away from PNG, but not from MAF. We will continue to work for MAF, contributing our experience — 18 years for Mathias and 16 years for Mandy — to the organisation's work here in Germany. We are grateful to remain part of this unique family, which has grown so dear to our hearts over the years, as ground crew — from now on, from a different continent and time zone.

On 1 March, we will return to Papua New Guinea once again to pack our bags and say goodbye to the people and places we have grown to love. We are also delighted to be able to take part in the mission retreat organised by our friends from the Swiss EBC during this time. The weeks in March and April will be very important and emotionally exhausting and moving for us.

PNG will always have a special place in our hearts. After all, we have spent most of our married lives there.

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and generous support for our work with MAF in PNG over the years.

*Laikim yu tumas,
Mathias & Mandy*

Born to fly

An awesome documentary about the daily flights of MAF pilots in Papua New Guinea with Bridget and Mathias in the cockpit.

As an MAF pilot, no two days are the same, and flight schedules are constantly changing. Fantail Studios, based in New Zealand, accompanied our fellow pilots, Bridget Ingham and Mathias, on flights, capturing not only the exciting everyday life of MAF pilots, but also their personal stories.



At the time, Mandy coordinated everything with Fantail Studios, acting as the bridge between the filmmakers and our MAF PNG programme. Filming the interviews in the hangar was challenging, by the way. Although our mechanics had the day off on Saturday and we were able to use the hangar, there were constant interruptions from the noise of helicopters and regional planes taking off and landing.



Fasten your seatbelts, make yourself comfortable with some popcorn or a tray of Christmas cookies for the 25 minutes documentary and follow Bridget and Mathias on their flights.



RADIO EQUIPMENT AS LIFESAVERS

What remains when there is no cell phone reception?

In the remote mountains of Telefomin District, where there are no roads and mobile phone reception is often unreliable, the HF radio remains an indispensable tool. In 2017, I observed and documented the installation of an antenna mast and radio for the local hospital and health department. All the equipment was flown in by MAF. (HF stands for 'high frequency' and would be referred to as a 'shortwave radio' in English.)

For Vanessa Yan, the coordinator of family health services, the radio is the backbone of her daily work. 'If there were no HF radios here, it would cause major problems. We would lose many lives out there,' she says.

She oversees programmes for mothers and children, organises deliveries and responds to emergencies in real time. Without radio, this would be impossible. 'Most health facilities don't have a communication network. HF radios are the only way I can communicate with them.' When an emergency occurs, such as a complicated birth, the message comes over the radio. 'If a mother gives birth and the placenta remains, they contact us via the HF radio.'



The MAF Technologies radio mast installed in 2017 still stands in front of the health department today. For Vanessa, it is not a nostalgic relic, but a lifeline. Mobile phone reception is poor in the mountains, leaving many villages without service. This has led to creative solutions: when cell phone reception does occasionally appear, villagers hold a phone to the microphone of the radio to pass on messages from third parties.

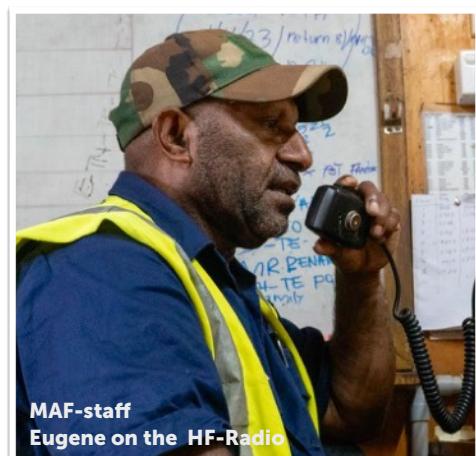
Even though other healthcare workers, local councillors, and even the police use the radio, medical communication remains crucial for Vanessa.



She knows that MAF Technologies monitors the frequencies and can initiate rescue flights in an emergency. That provides security: 'We know that someone is always listening when things get serious.'

MAF Technologies not only installs radio towers and radios, but also provides nationwide radio support in the form of training and maintenance services. The team also continuously monitors radio frequencies so that they can request a rescue flight from MAF in an emergency.

HF/VHF radio is not yesterday's technology in Papua New Guinea, but a robust lifeline. For Vanessa, it means remaining operational under the most difficult conditions – and saving lives when every minute counts. 'Without a runway and an airplane, life would be very difficult,' adds Abel, a colleague of Vanessa's. **"MAF saves lives here."**



GROUNDED! BROUGHT BACK DOWN TO EARTH

What has shaped our day-to-day life here in Germany in recent months

Life can change gently and quietly, or suddenly and unexpectedly. After landing in Frankfurt, we drove ourselves to Mathias's family home for the first time. We were very happy that the car had been loaned to us by a Christian car dealership. Our presentations and visit appointments were spread across Horb, Wetzlar, Dresden, Freising, Karlsruhe and the Netherlands.

Then came Mathias's hospital stay and our decision to stay in Germany. We applied for positions at the MAF

Germany office and received a job offer in December. We are therefore switching to ground crew, enabling others to continue receiving help, hope and healing from the air.

Since mid-October, we have been working at MAF Germany, based temporarily in the northern Black Forest and the Ore Mountains. We are also helping Mandy's parents with acute care.

MAF Germany is grateful to have two additional employees. While Mathias coordinated the relocation of the office

from Siegen to the Mainz-Finthen airfield, Mandy wrote and designed various print and online publications, including the *Luftpost* and the wonderful Christmas campaign.

Come and take a look around by scanning the QR-code below! You might even decide to join in and become a messenger of hope, giving a little hope to those less fortunate this Christmas.

MAF says a big thank you!

Schenke Hoffnung zu Weihnachten

Mit Ihrer Spende schenken Sie Hoffnung, Heilung und Zukunft!

NEW APPROACHES TO PILOT TRAINING AT MAF...

... and Mathias is right in the middle of it all, even from afar!

As a long-standing pilot with MAF in Papua New Guinea, I gained a great deal of experience in flying and training new pilots. In my role as Deputy Crew Training Manager, I was faced with various questions that could not be answered while on active flight duty.

One such question concerns deploying new pilots in the right-hand seat of our Cessna Caravan cockpit. This is a special case because the aircraft is designed for single-pilot operation and is not certified by the authorities for two pilots. Nevertheless, we recognise the advantages and would like to present the authorities with a safe concept for two-pilot operation.

Ultimately, we do not want to use two pilots per aircraft because we have a limited number of pilots. However, this model would provide valuable opportunities for young pilots to gain flight hours and operational experience in a protected environment early in their careers.

Until now, we would not consider pilots unless they had at least 1,000 flight hours. Gaining this level of experience takes years and is expensive. In times of pilot shortages, MAF must think differently. One outcome of this is the decision to allow pilots with significantly less experience, such as MAF flight school graduates with around 300 hours of flying experience, to undertake their first operational duties.

Even though I am currently unable to fly for health reasons, I am contributing my extensive experience of two-pilot operations on the Twin Otter and as a flight instructor. MAF has invited me to join a working group to develop new procedures for the two-pilot operation of the Cessna Caravan. I am particularly pleased that this concept promotes international young talent and opens up new perspectives for local PNG pilots — for many of them, it would be the job of their dreams.

PRAISE GOD WITH US

- that Mathias' health is stable and that we have a good healthcare system in Germany.
- for our mobile transport—the rental car for the ministry travels plus two extra months, and now our own.
- that we can support MAF Germany with our experience in the meantime.
- that we can provide support during all the changes in acute care for Mandy's parents.

PRAY TO GOD WITH US

- for safety in flight operations in PNG. Especially during the Christmas season, there are many passengers who want to travel to their villages to celebrate Christmas with their families. Bad weather often leads to flight cancellations. Pray for understanding and patience among passengers and wisdom for the pilots.
- for a smooth arrival and settling in Mainz, for good neighbours, new friendships, and a smooth transition into your new roles and responsibilities at MAF in Germany.
- for a blessed farewell trip to Papua New Guinea in March-April.

2026 - A YEAR WITH MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS

What's next for us?

After so many years in Papua New Guinea, returning to Germany feels like a profound transition. Re-entry, so to speak, means more to us than unpacking suitcases and having a new address. Our hearts also need to settle in, and that takes much longer. Much has become familiar and yet foreign at the same time. Our emotions are on a roller coaster ride.

Germany is our country of origin, and yet it no longer feels like "home" as a matter of course.

We are reorienting ourselves: in a society that has changed, in political discussions, in everyday life with all its routines.



Things that used to be taken for

granted have to be relearned. Friendships need to be cautiously rekindled, while other relationships are painfully missing. It is a life between "no longer" and the "not yet" – no longer there in PNG, but inwardly not quite here in Germany yet either.

This process brings with it grief. Grief over farewells, over familiar things we have left behind, over a life and a ministry that will not continue in the same way. At the same time, we feel gratitude for everything that was and a quiet hope for what may grow. Both exist side by side and require space and patience.

In this transition period, we are experiencing how important it is to pause and encounter God in these areas of tension. He invites us to acknowledge the loss without dwelling on it, and to be open to new perspectives that are only gradually becoming apparent.



As we increasingly settle back into life in Germany, we are gradually reshaping our daily routine, trying to establish new habits through our work for MAF, and slowly deepening our relationships again. It is a process that takes time—and support.

The next practical step for us is to find an apartment for us. In order to be close to our future place of work, the MAF Germany office, we are looking for an apartment near Mainz, where the new MAF Germany office has been located since December 1, 2025.

Thank you for walking this path with us, giving us space for the in-between, and carrying us in prayer.

We trust that God is also present in the transition and will gently lead us into the next phase.

AMAZEMENT, QUESTIONS, DARING – ENTIRELY PERSONAL.

Our presentation topic presents us with new challenges

Do you remember the topic of our presentation: From amazement to questions and daring?

- We marvel at God's ways, which often differ from what we imagine.
- We endure the questions for which there are no quick or clear answers.
- And we dare to take the next steps—cautiously, but with confidence.

The Bible verse from the Herrnhut annual motto, "I am making everything new," accompanies us in this. It reminds us that God not only brings closure to the past, but also allows new things to grow in the midst of transition. Even if some things still feel unfinished and fragmented, we can trust that He is at work and that our amazement, questions, and daring will lead us into something new.



STAY CONNECTED

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