

June 2026

M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

No 70



Flower garlands and bilums – traditional gifts of welcome and farewell by the people of PNG

DEAR FRIENDS,

«The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.»

This Bible verse (Psalm 121:8) reminds us that God already knows the path of our lives, and that we can trust Him — knowing that, whatever happens, He will make it good.

MAF officially stands for Mission Aviation Fellowship. But for us, it has also come to mean “My Awesome Family” — and that is exactly what MAF has been to us. We felt it throughout our 15-plus years of service, and again so clearly during the weeks we spent back in Papua New Guinea in February and March.

We were deeply touched by the loving farewell we received, and we are so grateful for this farewell trip. It felt like a real gift to be able to bring our time with MAF in PNG to a close in person — saying goodbye to dear friends and team mates, and also to places that had become so familiar and precious to us over the years.

Our journey back to Germany via Cairns and Brisbane, together with a short holiday in New Zealand, gave us some valuable breathing space between one season ending and a new one not yet fully beginning. It was a special time: we were able to re-

connect with dear friends from our years with MAF in PNG, and at the same time enjoy discovering some of New Zealand’s beautiful landscapes.

On 1 May, we started our new roles with MAF in Germany. There is a lot to learn, and settling into these new tasks and areas of responsibility is taking plenty of time and energy.

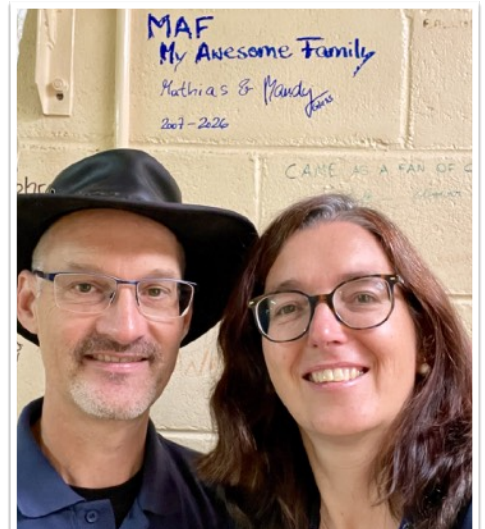
By mid-May, we were on the move again — this time for a professional debrief week. It was a helpful and important time for us, with space to reflect on our many years in PNG and to process all that we experienced — the beautiful and encouraging moments, as well as the hard and challenging ones. We sense that this is helping us step into this new chapter of life in Germany better equipped.

MAF still inspires us deeply — a flight ministry that is there where roads end, and one that can truly make a life-changing difference.

Thank you for continuing to fly with

us. Through your friendship, your interest, and your financial support for MAF, we can help bring real change to people who do not have access to the same level of medical care, education, or economic opportunity that we enjoy here in Germany.

Tenkyu tru,
Mathias & Mandy



When Conflict Closed the Skies

Our suitcases were packed, the airport transfer was booked, and the fridge was empty — apart from the last half litre of milk and some yoghurt for breakfast. We were ready, and excited to set off on our final journey back to PNG, with our flight scheduled for 1 March.

But then everything was turned upside down.

Bombs and rockets made airspaces unsafe. Airports on the Arabian Peninsula were closed, flights were cancelled — including ours. We had been due to fly via Doha, Qatar, to Singapore, and then on to Port Moresby, PNG. It was the already postponed return flight from our home assignment in the summer of 2025.

So what now?

Trust God. Contact the travel agency and try to find a new flight connection as quickly as possible. Trust God. Refill the fridge. Make good use of the unexpected days at home. Trust God.

And yes, after a lot of back and forth, and after carefully weighing up the enormous additional costs, as well as the purpose and value of the trip, we were finally able to fly to PNG on 5 March — this time via South Korea.



Our welcome committee in Mt Hagen

We were so, so grateful that MAF stood behind us and approved these extra costs. Costs that, especially in light of the fuel crisis caused by the war with Iran, would have been so urgently needed in an MAF programme country — for example, to carry out medical emergency flights.



FIVE FULL-ON WEEKS IN PNG

Household clearance, landslides, 12-lead ECGs, car challenge, countless handshakes, and so much more

Imagine this: you have **three days** to decide which belongings in your home are truly important and valuable, and what you want to take with you to your next place. The only limitation: a maximum volume of maximum 1.5 cubic metres. On top of that, you also have to create an inventory list showing what is in each packed box and the financial value of every box.

And of course, you are jet-lacked and sleep-deprived too. Alongside all of this, you still need to visit various government offices and the bank to take care of other moving formalities...

How does that feel?

Because of our delayed departure, that is exactly the kind of stress we found ourselves under!



with some of our Swiss friends at Kugark

Thanks to wonderful neighbours and colleagues — and a lovely café nearby — we were at least very well fed and cared for. In fact, during our whole time back in PNG, we did not cook a single meal for ourselves even once. MAF — **My Awesome Family** — really carried us in this area and freed us up in such a practical way. We were able to spend precious time with many families again, sharing memories and enjoying meaningful fellowship.

And what about the rest of the household? After all, we still had to **empty the house**. Imagine: Just look around the room you are sitting in right now and try to estimate how many individual items there are!

Thanks to a friend, we were able to

set up an easy-to-use platform, which made our **household clearance** work really well. We photographed every single item, put a price on it, and uploaded it to a private online shop for sale. Local and international colleagues, as well as mission friends, were able to shop online from us. We are especially glad that this helped an Austrian doctor's family get started and set up their new home in PNG. It not only helped us financially but also emotionally to know our stuff still get used and reminds people of us.



In the workshop: our Mitsubishi Pajero

Then our car broke down too! Dear friends spontaneously lent us their car for our trip through the Highlands, so we were still able to make it in time to the retreat with our Swiss mission friends. Less than 24 hours later, the road was closed because of a massive landslide.

Again and again, **God encouraged and strengthened us through His angels on the ground — people who made saying goodbye easier for us in so many practical and meaningful ways.**

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continued
on pages 3 & 4
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MAF Fuel Challenge

Fuel prices have risen dramatically for MAF — in some MAF programmes by more than 50 percent within just a few days.

Could you help soften the impact of these extra costs?

Every contribution helps MAF keep the air bridge open to remote village communities.

Simply scan the QR-Code!
Thank you!



WHEN YOUR HEART SKIPS AND LIFE IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Can Prayer Really Bring Healing?

A brief look back: In March 2025, I suddenly noticed a change in my heartbeat. In April and May, the uncomfortable sensations became stronger, and I knew I had to do something about it. After we arrived in Germany, I had a long-term ECG, which confirmed the irregularities. My GP already indicated that this would most likely mean I would no longer be able to fly.

After an acute episode in October, I spent a few days in hospital. No structural cause could be found. Organically, my heart is just as it should be. Even so, the doctor strongly advised me to reduce my stress and avoid physical strain. In the end, we did not know what else to do but make the **decision not to return to flight operations in PNG.**

With all the examination results in hand, I met with the aviation medical examiner in January 2026 and asked for his advice. His summary was that restoring my medical fitness to fly might be possible, but it would be a long process including a surgery. That confirmed our decision.

In PNG, we unexpectedly had the opportunity at a mission hospital to have a 12-lead ECG done – a test the cardiologist in Germany had described as an essential next diagnostic step. So there we were in PNG, and before I knew it, I was all wired up! The readings were both impressive and frightening...

One very special experience was our farewell in a small church in the Telefomin valley. We had never actually been stationed there for any length of time, but many people have known me since 2007 as a young pilot, and both of us from repeated short-term assignments there. Mandy had also been there in 2023 for one of her women's conferences, and over the years had interviewed a number of people there for MAF.

At the beginning of the service, we said goodbye to the congregation and explained that Mathias' heart was unwell, and that for this reason we

needed to make use of the medical care available in Germany. Then the service continued as usual.

After the sermon, the pastor dismissed the congregation. But before people stood up to leave, a woman got to her feet and declared in a loud voice that the service was not over yet. She asked all the prayer women to come to the front and pray for us. We found ourselves standing in a circle of eight to ten women, who prayed earnestly – first in Tok Pisin and then in the local language. All around the church, we could hear the murmur of people praying. It was deeply moving.

The next day, my heart felt calmer than it had for months!



The following Sunday, I was able to have another 12-lead ECG done by our neighbour in Mt Hagen. Sharon is a mission doctor and had this small device in her home as well. The ECG showed no abnormalities. She said, "If I didn't know your story, I would have no hesitation in issuing you a pilot medical certificate."

Back in Germany, I had an appointment at the university hospital in Mainz. The results of the long-term ECG and another 12-lead ECG were normal, and no further treatment was necessary. Really!?

Since Telefomin, my heart has been calm. **Thanks be to God!**

We are amazed as we look back at everything that has happened since the first symptoms appeared, and at the changes that have come about as a

result. Mandy and I have said goodbye to PNG and have taken up **new roles with MAF in Germany.** We remain actively connected with MAF, now supporting the mission from Germany.

Mathias serves as Head of Personnel, caring for new recruits and our German colleagues serving internationally. Mandy is responsible for communications and marketing. We both really enjoy our work. The learning curves are steep, our colleagues are lovely, and Mainz is a very attractive place to live and work.

Emotionally and physically, however, we are still very much being stretched – learning to live in the here and now, and finding our feet in this cultural transition...



Give thanks to God

- ▶ for a meaningful and safe farewell trip to PNG.
- ▶ for a good week of guided reflection on our time in PNG.
- ▶ that God has answered the prayers for Mathias' heart in such a way that it is able to beat normally again.
- ▶ for seven new pilots who are expected to arrive in PNG over the next 12 months.

Pray with us

- ▶ as we settle back into German culture and into our new roles with MAF. There will be many new things that will challenge us, surprise us, and at times make us feel uncertain.
- ▶ for our limited strength, which sometimes does not seem enough for the many tasks we need to manage, both personally and professionally.
- ▶ for the MAF programme in PNG: for safe flight operations there, and for sufficient resources to meet the many flight requests.



SNAPSHOTS OF OUR FAREWELL-HIGHLIGHTS

Follow the arrows for the right order...



Welcome at Mougulu



with Ian & Sally >
All the High School students and teachers



shaking 500 hands at the Primary School

Mougulu: 24 hours filled with love and appreciation! You may remember our MAF videos about Sister Sini and health worker Paul Isilawa, as well as the reports about the new school right in the middle of the bush. This was one place we really wanted to visit one more time. The people there have found a special place in our hearts. Sally and Ian have too — having left their careers in Australia behind to invest in this valuable village development work in such a remote and hard-to-reach area. Both schools, the High School with more than 300 students and the Primary School with around 500 students, gave us a very honouring farewell. We were truly overwhelmed and deeply moved. In many ways, this appreciation was not just for us, but also for MAF — and for you, too.



all the High School girls with their presents



every girl receives reusable sanitary pads, some a full kit, others who already have one get just new liners



sorting and portioning all the different parts to make it last for every girl

Mougulu: We had brought 20 kilos of reusable sanitary pads from Germany, carefully and lovingly sewn by women from our church in Karlsruhe. After our farewell, all the girls from Years 9 to 12 stayed behind, and together with some extra supplies Sally still had, there were just enough for every one of them. It became a good opportunity to talk about womanhood and menstruation, about hygiene, sexual responsibility and school rules — and also simply to remind them that they are precious in God's eyes.



Mt Hagen: During our farewell trip, we tried to preserve many memories and friendships in photos. Our friends and colleagues shared so many kind words and told stories that made us smile. There were plenty of tears too. We will miss these people very much. All the more grateful are we that we are still part of the wider worldwide MAF family. And God knows when and where some of our paths may cross again one day.

STAY CONNECTED

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