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MI&MI

FLIGHTRECORDER



Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

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The journey home
at the end of a long
working day can look so
different, depending on
where you live...

DEAR FRIENDS,

«May God's favour rest on us and make our work successful and lasting.»

Psalm 90, 17 (NIV)

The photo above was taken in Telefomin and is so typical of life there. At the end of the day, many people are out and about. Some can be seen walking home, carrying the fruits of their day's work—often in heavily laden bilums filled with produce from gardens several kilometres away. They may also carry firewood for cooking, or timber to repair or build their homes.

Others are simply walking with friends, enjoying the conversation and exercise, and seeing who else they might meet along the way.

For us, whenever possible, we cycle home from the MAF office. Our minds are often still buzzing with thoughts from the working day. We keep discussing on topics. Some concerns drive home with us: Will our small team manage to organise the open day at the airfield? Will we receive enough donations, and will our marketing efforts bear fruit? When will we find the right person to take on the accounts? When will we, as MAF Germany, be

able to send our next staff member overseas?

Sometimes we arrive home knowing there is still so much to do. It was the same in Papua New Guinea, where there were—and still are...—more flight requests than MAF could meet. We imagine that many of you experience something similar—that you often cannot get everything done, whether personally or at work.

How do you deal with that?

We feel that the Bible verse above is a fitting way to end a working day: entrusting our efforts to God and placing the day back into his hands.

We must not forget gratitude, either. We are so privileged! Our paths are comfortable and short. There is a supermarket around the corner. We have a car in the garage. We don't have to carry heavy loads along rocky or muddy roads. We have a lovely home.

And Mathias' heart continues to beat steadily and without problems!

Although we sometimes long to re-

turn to PNG, we know we are in the right place here in Mainz. We continue to help MAF aircraft bring help, hope and healing to people in PNG and elsewhere by what we do.

As always, we are incredibly grateful to every one of you who journeys with us—to all who pray for us, support MAF financially and encourage us. Without you, we could not do this work or manage our re-entry journey.

Tenkyu, tenkyu tru,
Mandy & Mathias



Riding our bikes on PNG's Independence Day

Big shoes...

Mainz is the city of Johannes Gutenberg. How dramatically the printing press changed life 500 years ago, making God's Word accessible to people around the world! Could AI—artificial intelligence—bring about the next revolution and a similarly far-reaching transformation in society?

A few days ago we visited Worms. There, we found ourselves standing in "Luther's shoes". The sculpture was created in 2017 and commemorates Martin Luther's appearance before the Diet of Worms in April 1521. Visitors can step into the oversized shoes—a symbolic invitation to put themselves in Luther's position and reflect on moral courage and decisions of conscience.

What a relevant topic today!



For us, the responsibilities entrusted to us in the MAF office in Mainz are still big shoes to fill. We continue to grow into them!

In other areas, we are amazed to discover how naturally things fit together. For example, we are grateful to have found a church community at Mainz City Mission that suits us so well. We have also been delighted to discover the connections it already has with MAF: people who have travelled in an MAF aircraft, whether as children on their way to school in Tanzania or as missionaries in Chad...

BRIDGES TO PAPUA NEU GUINEA IN GERMANY

Sometimes we can only smile at the unexpected ways we are reminded of PNG—and how these moments lead to encounters and conversations.

At the beginning of July, we travelled to the North of Germany to visit friends and churches, say thank you for their faithful support, and share what we have experienced with God and MAF.

Across from the café at Bremen's Hoffnungskirche, we discovered the Tekin Grill House.

For us, **Tekin** is the name of a short, steep airstrip in PNG that is familiar to us. But it was also the name of the owner of the small takeaway across the street, who is a good friend of the pastor.



The pastor spontaneously invited Tekin to join us, and Mathias was able to show him "his" village and build a bridge into a very different world:

Since the Baptist mission station was founded there in 1962, Tekin has developed into an important centre for the Oksapmin region. For decades, the Baptists shaped the area through their work in church ministry, education and training. The construction of the airstrip also created an important link with the outside world. MAF took on the task of providing air support for the missionaries, transporting people and urgently needed supplies.

Over the years, this support expanded to the entire region, and more airstrips were built. To this day, MAF connects Tekin with the outside world and supports the people living there.



Mathias explaining the approach into Tekin to Tekin

For Mandy's birthday, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the "Dicke Lilli" café in Mainz before Mandy boarded the ICE to Hamburg for a BibleTV partners' day. Suddenly, in the corridor leading to the toilets, Mandy found herself in another world: **a jungle full of Birds of Paradise!** What a surprise! The staff had thought they were parrots... But now they know better! ;)



In Hamburg, at the partners' day, she met a staff member of Ethnos360, formerly New Tribes Mission (NTM). In 2014, he had attended and documented the ceremonial translation and presentation of the New Testament in the Bagwido language group at **Mariama** for his organisation, just as we did for MAF.

It is wonderful how such bridges to PNG keep appearing in our lives!

It also seemed fitting that, around the same time, a report arrived from PNG. Matt, my former colleague and head of the communications team was there to accompany and train a new staff member on her first bush trip to document stories and conduct interviews.

In Mariama, medical help is still extremely difficult to access. There is no health centre, medical staff or supply of medicines. The recently rehabilitated airstrip—made possible with EU funding—enables MAF to continue serving this remote community and the surrounding villages, including through regular medical patrols from Kompiam Hospital.

Although there are many waterways accessible by the Mariama people, travelling along the Sepik River is dangerous because of river pirates. Many people therefore feel cut off from the outside world. This makes the connection by air, through MAF and NTM, all the more important.

THE PEOPLE LAID DOWN THEIR ARROWS

A story of lasting change

The valley was once a place of tribal wars and killings, but today church-run health services work with former enemies. In this 75th year of MAF operations in PNG, a Telefomin mother and her son share about the 'mammoth' transformation they've witnessed.

"Before God's Word came to Telefomin, the people here just thought about fighting. They were angry," says 'Mama' Nunta Markis. "They would just get an arrow and shoot each other." Tribal conflicts were part of daily life, and fear was a constant companion.

Amongst the older women in the Telefomin community, Mama Nunta is one of a shrinking number of people who can remember when the Good News first came to this highland valley.

how his father came with friends to meet with the missionary – by cover of night – during the tribal war. "They actually jumped over the fear fence and came," Nathan says. "They got awakened by the Holy Spirit to actually come and see the first missionary. It was because my father wanted that thing, you know, with his heart."

Markis, Yanis and Wasani became the first believers from their tribe, and the power of God's Word took immediate effect. "Papa Markis, Yanis and Wasani said 'No, no, no. You should not fight'," says Mama Nunta. "They said, 'That's God's Word that has come. You people be at peace.' And the people laid down their arrows."

Telefomin, Tifalmin, Feranmin, Eliptamin and beyond – the whole Min area has been changed by the gospel.

"MAF brings God's Word, the Bible," adds Mama Nunta. "With MAF, I've been to women's conferences to listen to the preaching. Last year we went down to worship at Tabubil. MAF took us there."

"My children – I'm so happy – all of them have work, they're educated. For me, Mama, I cannot read and write."

Nathan adds: "Every Min kid who grew up with MAF will say 'MAF is part of me. Our life was with MAF – flying food, bringing all store goods, all our teachers from outside coming in. MAF was everything to us. It's a mammoth change.'"

He now works with Min Baptist Health Services as the Director of Nursing Services and Administration. "I look after all the nurses, their welfare, administration – all the medicines that are coming, all the sick patients that need to fly

in from the remote places so we can take care of them. We still need MAF to play this part here," Nathan explains. "If it wasn't for MAF here, I don't think I would get to where I am today. We can't live if MAF would go."

Mandy recorded the interview in Tok Pisin with Mama Nunta and Nathan in Telefomin in May 2025, before our home assignment. Her colleague Matt Painter then turned it into this written story.

In March this year, Mandy was able to take printed photographs and the English version of the story to Mama Nunta in person. Oh, how delighted she was! She immediately began sharing more stories from the past – and telling us how God's good news has brought peace till today.



Mama Nunta Markis and her son Nathan

"I would move around the mountains," she says, pointing. "I would cut across that mountain there and go up, planting sweet potato on the mountainsides. We would move around like that, coming and going."

"Then a long time ago, the first MAF aeroplane came here. It came across rivers and mountains. It came down, down, and landed."

"MAF came here at a time of war, a time of dispute. The Feranmin people were coming, the Eliptamin people were coming. Tribes were coming to fight."

Nathan, the son of Mama Nunta and her husband Markis, recalls the story



Visiting Mama Nunta in March 2026



View over the Telefomin-Valley towards Feranmin - once enemies, today friend



Church in Telefomin

Give thanks to God

- ▶ that we are able to enjoy such good living conditions in Germany, including access to healthcare, shops and reliable infrastructure.
- ▶ for safe travels and encouraging encounters during our church visits and at the airfield open day here in Mainz.
- ▶ for his faithfulness and care during our transition from PNG back to Germany.
- ▶ for people with moral courage, such as Luther and Markis.

Pray with us

- ▶ for the safety of MAF flights around the world, whether in PNG or South Sudan.
- ▶ that we will continue to settle well into life in Mainz, becoming familiar with our daily routes and gradually expanding our horizons.
- ▶ for MAF in Germany: for unity within the team, additional staff in accounting and donor care, and the financial resources needed for our work.

MAF SERVING IN OTHER NATIONS: SOUTH SUDAN

Displaced by war, reached by MAF: Refugees in Renk



The war in Sudan has forced millions of people from their homes. In remote regions, food, medical care and protection are in short supply. MAF brings vital aid to places where other means of transport cannot reach.

At the age of 20, Sarah's life changed forever.

The brutal civil war in Sudan tore her away from her home—the only place she had ever known. Together with her sister, Sarah boarded a vehicle that was meant to take them out of the country and to safety.



But the vehicle broke down. The two sisters were stranded for three days, sleeping outside in the cold. Unimaginable events were unfolding around them. Women were attacked and raped—sometimes in front of their husbands and fathers. Sarah could do nothing but lie there and wait, wondering whether she or her sister would be next.

"It breaks my heart when I think about what other girls had to endure," she says.

Today, Sarah lives in Renk, a town on the northern border of South Sudan. She misses her home, her church and the life she once knew. Food is scarce and access to medical care is limited. The trauma of her escape continues to affect her.

Sarah is one of more than 11 million people who have been forced to flee the war in Sudan. Many now live in makeshift settlements in neighbouring countries, without sufficient food, clean water or medical assistance. Thousands of refugees arrive in Renk every day. A settlement originally designed for 4,000 people is now dangerously overcrowded.

The need is immense. Yet the people who require help most urgently often live in regions that are extremely difficult to reach. This is where MAF's support makes a difference. MAF transports medical supplies, humanitarian workers and life-saving cargo to Renk. Through our flights, we reach people who have been cut off from the outside world by war, displacement and destroyed infrastructure. In this way, **MAF supports a wide range of partners in caring for refugees and delivering aid to remote areas.**

For people like Sarah, this means that help can reach them where they are seeking safety and support.

By donating to MAF, you can also help transport more medical supplies, humanitarian workers and vital cargo to displaced families. Together, we can give people like Sarah renewed hope and help ensure that life-saving assistance reaches even the most difficult-to-access regions.



STAY CONNECTED

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