



NEWS FROM NORBS ABROAD

WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/NORBURY

July 2024



Hello everybody!

TRACY WRITES...

It looks like this will be a super-sized edition of our update because there is so much to say! Last time we wrote I was in the middle of a tiring time and desperately in need of a holiday, some breakthroughs at work and some encouragement from the Lord. It's amazing that I can share about all three of these things with you now 😊

We so appreciate the way that you prayed us into our holiday last month in Sengapi. Although we were only able to go for five nights instead of seven it was still wonderful to escape the noise and dust of Hagen and go 'out bush'. We stayed at a mission station which is staffed by an awesome team of godly PNG church leaders – the best missionaries we know! We were able to help out by taking a Jesus Film kit with us (a mobile, solar-powered jungle cinema) and to preach at the Tuesday fellowship night (the theme was 'Being on Team Jesus' and the key text was Exodus 23v5).

Mostly though, we just enjoyed hanging out with our friends and allowing the kids to roam free (which is not possible in Mount Hagen). There were animals to be played with, bows-and-arrows (and cockerels) to be shot, a river to be

Eponymous PMVs

There is no public transport as such in Papua New Guinea, so most people rely on PMVs (Public Motor Vehicles). These are little minibuses which are hailed by travellers waiting at the side of the road. To make it easier to identify them (and therefore where they are going), PMVs tend to have a name written in big letters on the front or back window. Here are some examples:

- Cherry Boy (a cherry is a coffee berry)
- Yumi Yet ('Just us')
- Rusty Boi
- Hatwok Meri ('Hard-working Woman')
- Two Hands
- Waghi Natives (the Waghi Valley is close by)
- Wanpis Boi ('Single Child')

splashed in and hikes to be had. It was just the reminder we needed of how beautiful PNG is and what a privilege it is to be part of the church in this nation. It also reminded us of the need for MAF: Sengapi's nearest road is a day's walk away.

I also reached a major milestone at work last month: after 2+ years of dreaming about how we can streamline our recruitment, induction and probation of PNG national staff, it was time to try out our new 'Enhanced Induction' training package. I've put together a 12-hour training programme which aims to set a baseline for new staff in four areas: spiritual health (including basic theology and spiritual warfare), cultural literacy (i.e. how to negotiate the challenges of working in a multi-cultural organisation), financial accountability (bribery and extortion are common pressures here) and general professionalism (e.g. how to use IT, write an email, answer the phone, etc).

It was gratifying too to be asked to do further informal coaching with some of the leaders in our Ground Operations department, to assist in the recruitment of some key new managers, and to continue identifying ways that the staff team can grow professionally. My focus over the coming months will be to back-train our line-managers using the material from our new induction and to look at how we can strengthen our line-management culture. I'll also be continuing some research into how MAF staff from western cultures relate to their PNG colleagues and vice-versa.

There, now you know what I do when I'm at work (and thank you to those of you who asked about this)!

FRASER WRITES...

It was great to be in Sengapi.

In many places in PNG you can see how life used to be and how it functioned fifty years ago. A lot of that infrastructure is now just a shadow of what used to be. What was great about Sengapi was seeing a thriving church, health centre and community run entirely by the community for the community.

From the boys helping chopping wood and hunting possums for dinner to the man called 'The Captain' ensuring the grounds were ship-shape. Not prompted or paid for by anyone else, just a community, coming together around the church to make life function well in a really isolated place.

And finally...

One last thing for now is to let you know about a ministry trip that we and the kids have just got back from. We drove two of our colleagues from MAF in Hagen to the town of Kudjip (about 45 mins away) to join with a team from MAF Tech, our sister organisation in Goroka (4 hrs drive away).

Our goal was to observe and learn from our MAF Tech colleagues as they conducted an outreach weekend: an info evening about the positives and negatives of the internet (Fri night), a great Christian film (Sat night), and a truly inspired preach at church on Sunday morning. We on the Hagen team also received training from our MAF Tech colleagues. The weekend was hosted by our pastor friends (from our Wara Tuman adventures in our last update) and was attended by leaders from six other churches.

The most brilliant thing was hearing Caine, the leader of the outreach, preaching on topics – humility, family relationships and litter (!) – that Pastor Samuel has been focussing on with his and other local congregations over the past nine months or so. God was very much at work so please do join us in watching this space!

The MAF Communications Team is due to write a more detailed story about the outreach weekend which we will direct you to next time.

If you are a person who prays we would love it if you could take a look at our prayer update on the right.

We are so blessed to have such generous supporters – generous not just with money but also with prayer support and encouragements. It feels like we are just on the cusp of being able to do something effective in and through the Lord here in PNG, and we know it's your prayers and cheerleading that have enabled us to persevere to this point. Praise the Lord!

With love and big grins from

Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Primrose

World Book Day had a definite theme for us this year: Eowyn from Lord Of The Rings...and the Nazgul King she defeated.



We took a beautiful drive over the Dualo Pass to Goroka. The kids discovered a good way to recover from car sickness!



PRAYER UPDATE

Last time we asked you to pray for:

- **Our planned trip 'out bush' at the end of June.** It was wonderful. Thank you and the Lord!
- New finance team member, **Hardie Winta.** He seems to be settling well in the team and really appreciated the theology session we did during his induction.
- **Oliver and Rosie** as they adjust to friends of theirs leaving Hagen and leaving PNG. They are still in the middle of this process.

We'd also love it if you could pray for:

- **Mount Hagen:** there has been an increase in lawlessness in town since food prices increased. Please join us in praying for the peace and prosperity of our city.
- **Pastor Samuel and his wife, Mary:** for wisdom, protection and discernment for them as they plan their next, larger, outreach event in Kudjip.
- **MAF in PNG:** our interim Country Director is retiring in August and a replacement for him has not yet been identified. Please pray for unity, wisdom and grace for the leadership team that remains (of which Fraser is a member).

Our mailing address:

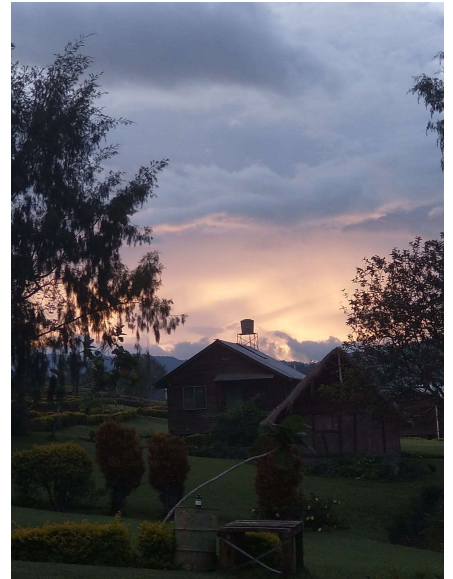
MAF PNG,
Kagamuga Airport,
Mount Hagen, WHP 281,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Our trip to Sengapi was a wonderful time of 'switching off' and enjoying the delights of PNG life.

Our friend Melisha hosted us and allowed us to hang out in her 'haus kuk' (cooking house) with her baby chicks.



The countryside was beautiful!



Oliver used his bow skills to kill a rooster which we ate for dinner.



Co-pilot on the flight home!

