



NEWS FROM NORBS ABROAD

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Sept 2024



Hello everybody!

TRACY WRITES...

It's felt like a momentous two months: the retirement of the PNG Programme's Interim Country Director, farewells to a cohort of other lovely expat MAF families, some landmark moments at work, and the start of a fun new era in our family life too.

Doug and Yvonne Miles retired on 23rd August after 34 years of service with MAF throughout the Pacific region. We've been personally grateful for their humour, prayer support and amazing stories of God's faithfulness over the years. We miss their leadership but are glad that they can 'retire' at last (although the 'in joke' in MAF is that no-one ever fully leaves MAF).

The Miles' departure was the final farewell in a series of emotional events to prayerfully release expat MAF families into the next stage of God's calling on their lives. Goodbyes are one of the hardest elements of MAF life, but it was wonderful to hear our friends' stories and what the Lord has done in PNG through them.

Meanwhile, in my work I was called upon to help organise two super fun events: a 1-day Global Leadership Summit

The Land of Aus

It's almost time for us to swap the sounds and smells of Hagen for the very slightly more salubrious ones of Cairns, Queensland.

MAF International has it's Asia Pacific office there, so we plan to connect with/work alongside our colleagues before taking some time out on holiday as a family.

Things we're looking forward to:

- Reconnecting with MAF friends we haven't seen for a few years
- Watching a film at the cinema (for our kids this will be their second time ever)
- Assuming that the electricity supply will work when we hope it will
- Not living in a gated compound with a 24-hour guard and surrounded by razor wire
- Eating an ice-cream that's about a foot tall and covered in raspberry sauce

facilitated by the Global Leadership Network (a multinational Christian charity which seeks to foster transformational leadership) and the annual MAF Ladies' Retreat. These were great opportunities to connect with colleagues and 'spur each other on' in our faith.

Finally, it was a time of new beginnings for the kids: we have teamed up with another MAF family to host 'Kids Bible Klub' on Tuesday evenings; we gather with four other (non-MAF) families to play sports after school on Wednesdays; and last Saturday morning the kids and I had a go at running our first science club at Bible Faith Orphanage, a MAF-associated ministry here in Mount Hagen. Exercise, fun and friendships can sometimes feel hard to come by so it is great to have these new opportunities to learn and grow with other families.

FRASER WRITES...

Finance is always difficult to write news about, so I won't (everything is fine).

Instead, today I heard that a significant milestone has been reached for us starting up float plane operations. Some major sign offs have happened with the regulators which allows us to proceed. The float plane allows us to access many people who, due to the terrain, we cannot access with normal wheeled planes. It will still be a while until first regular flights start and not everything is in place, including a permanent float plane pilot, but this a great milestone achieved on the journey. Well done team.

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

Thank you for supporting us through your prayers, silly text messages, financial sacrifices and general willingness to be part of what we're up to - we remain entirely convinced that there's no way we could do any of this without you!

With love and big grins from

Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Primrose

PRAYER UPDATE

Last time we asked you to pray for:

- **Mount Hagen:** please continue to pray for the peace and prosperity of this city (Jeremiah 29:7)
- **Pastor Samuel and his wife, Mary:** we had some blessed times with them over the past two months. We plan to support them as they host their next community outreach event in November.
- **MAF in PNG:** praise the Lord with us that **Dom Sant**, our neighbour and colleague, has been appointed as Interim Country Director over the coming 3-6 months. Please pray for him and his family as they face the challenges of this role and for joy amidst all the hard work.

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

- **Our trip to Australia:** that our flights would depart from Mount Hagen and PNG as scheduled, for good health and for the kind of rest that will bring us back home to PNG with a spring in our step.
- **New MAF families joining the PNG programme:** we have a new cohort of MAF staff arriving between now and Easter. Please pray for peace and clarity for them as they prepare for and make this transition.
- **The church in PNG:** for an increase in spiritual discernment and revelation to fit us for service in this beautiful nation.

Our mailing address:

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

What a lovely lot of ladies to go on a retreat with! Tracy's new friend Justina taught her how to play bass.



This year's Independence Day celebration was phenomenal. The kids performed traditional dances and loved it!

Tracy attended her first PNG funeral and wore mud on her face.



Our first science club was a hit!



Fraser in his happy place.

