



FIONA'S NEWS

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“Command those who are rich in this world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 1v17 (NIV)

I wonder what would be on your list if you wrote down all the things that you take for granted. You may think of things like electricity and gas at the flick of a switch or turn of a knob for lighting, cooking and heating, hot water straight from the tap, wide choice of food available in the shops throughout the year, school education for every child and access to medical care.

Would basic hygiene knowledge be on your list? Since Aerial Health Patrol (AHP) teams from the Sustainable Development Program (SDP) started a health education initiative in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, Esther Waliah has seen a dramatic improvement in her family's health from the simple measure of washing hands before eating at a cleaning point like the one pictured. Mary Biyama from SDP arranges flights for the AHP teams with MAF, without whom the regular medical and outreach work would not be possible. She becomes emotional at the impact that the teams and MAF are having on the communities in her province, as you can see in this video (*Photo & video, Tajs Jespersen*)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjQCOqW8ynU&list=PLlmX9cUhm9AVcDbcMjDxXjaPaFH0YqukQ&index=47>



In South Sudan MAF flights have supported Tearfund in their rehabilitation of 14 boreholes in the Rubkona area in collaboration with the State Government Water Department. The focus of the associated sanitation and hygiene work, supported by the pictured delivery of bins and buckets, (*photo Iisakki Saari*) is particularly on schools and health centres. One student commented: “Having water available at school means I no longer have to worry about returning home in the middle of the day to drink water.” Since the borehole has been rehabilitated teacher Albino Chuol has noted an increase in both student enrolment and attendance. He says, “Access to clean water has significantly affected students' overall wellbeing, and instances of diarrhoea have also reduced. Not only are more students showing up for classes, but they also seem more focused and engaged!”

If you would like to see more on the related topics of sanitation and school access, you might like to watch this video of Siobhain Cole (Ground Ops and wife of pilot Ryan Cole) in PNG that MAF Australia made for their Mother's Day appeal earlier this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYn7XUVfNk>

Most of you receiving this letter live in places where there is a reasonably efficient road ambulance service for accessing emergency healthcare in hospitals with modern equipment. When one year old Geovanio dos Santos from Suai in Timor Leste started crying and vomiting in the middle of the night, his parents took him to the local hospital. The staff there identified fluid on the brain but did not have the facilities to treat him. An ambulance journey would have taken 6-8 hours on rough roads, but MAF was able to transfer him to the capital, Dili, in just 35 minutes, which his family believed saved his life. MAF had the joy of flying him home again after his discharge, as part of their regular collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Timor Leste. (*Photo: Matt Painter*)





MAF's medical flights are not just for emergency cases. Most of the people we serve in the countries in which we fly are isolated from health facilities that we take for granted, including dental and eye care. In Madagascar, MAF has a partnership with Mercy Ships, the Christian organisation which operates hospital ships. Each flight taking the patient selection team to more remote areas can save days of difficult journeys by road. When Delphine heard that the team would be going to Toliara she took her son, Osman, to be examined.

(Photo: Antsatiana Gino Randrianasolo). She could not afford the cost of the operation at her local hospital so she was relieved when the Mercy Ships staff said that he could be scheduled for a consultation with a

surgeon on board the ship at Toamisina. The current hospital director on board the "Africa Mercy" is an Australian called Meryl McKenzie. Earlier in her life she lived in Papua New Guinea whilst her husband was flying there for MAF, so it's interesting to see her speak of this partnership between MAF and Mercy Ships <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JOJMjOniE8>

We are also accustomed to buying what we want when we want it, whether at a shop or from an online store. Included within that is the ability to purchase a Bible in our own language. A flight earlier this year enabled a Ugandan YWAM (Youth with a Mission) team to evangelise and distribute Bibles on Bukasa Island in Lake Victoria. Abel Rukundo, leader of YWAM's "End Bible Poverty Now Uganda" project was grateful for the flight which saved many hours of travel in an open boat. One of the Bible recipients was Farouk Mugisha who became a Christian last year. Before that he had struggled with negative influences and drug addiction. Having become a Christian he yearned for a Bible so he was delighted with his gift. (Photo: Annet Nabbanja)



One thing we can perhaps take for granted is change! The CFO, Anna Beck, is leaving MAF at the end of June and will be moving to another Christian charity in great need of her particular abilities. Within MAF, the finance team is facing other changes with a couple of people taking on interim roles whilst MAF International goes through a wider integration process with the various resourcing groups. One result is that I am needed on a permanent, full-time contract as soon as I can move to Kent. We have a buyer for our house in Surrey and are in the process of purchasing one in Tenterden. Timings are in the hands of solicitors and searches but we are really hoping to be able to move before the end of July, especially as I am expecting to spend about 3 weeks in PNG in August or September.

Thank you for your faithfulness in your support for me in my work with and for MAF. I am very grateful for your love and care and I apologise if I ever seem to take this for granted.

- Thank God for all His good gifts and that He is unchanging (James 1v17), constantly compassionate and gracious and abounding in love (Psalm 103v8).
- Pray for the people in isolated communities who may be dependent on MAF for access to healthcare, education and even basic necessities such as water, food and shelter. Pray too for the people and organisations who fly with us to bring help, hope and healing.
- Please pray for the finance team, that we adjust quickly to the changes in personnel and roles and that we can help make the best use of the MAF's resources as we prepare the 2026 budget.
- Continue to pray for the house transactions, that we may be able to move soon.
- Please also continue to pray for my personal health – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

Please let me or MAF know if you no longer want to receive this quarterly prayer letter or would like it in a different format (post or email) and let us know if you would also like to receive the briefer prayer letter without pictures that I send in the interim months.

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