



James and Danielle Gullett serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship: December Update 25



Happy Christmas!!

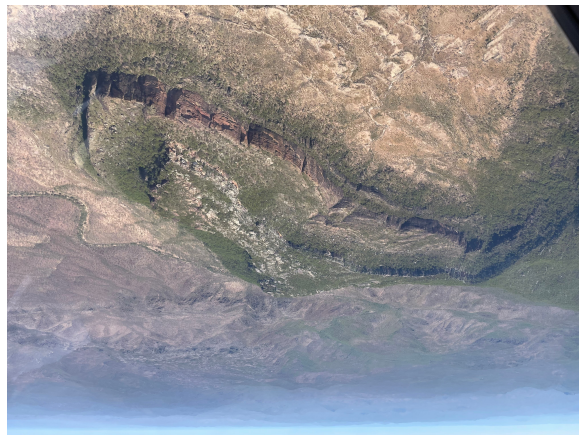
We hope this letter finds you well, as always it is a joy to write to you and update you as we work with Mission Aviation Fellowship. We are so grateful for your support and so thankful for your partnership over this last year. As you are aware, it has been a busy year spent in various locations and we look back with heartfelt thanks to God for his guidance and care, and to you all for sustaining us with your prayers and support. We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

Reflecting on November and December

It has been another busy few months here in Queensland, but we are very thankful that we have been able to accomplish the necessary tasks to get us on our way to Arnhem Land in the new year. A few weeks ago James completed standardisation, something he really enjoyed, working with MAF Training Captain Steven Biggs. Throughout the course James looked at some specific MAF techniques that are used throughout the MAF programs, and thought about the different threats that affect MAF operations and how to manage and mitigate them. He flew several flights in the Airvan, practicing various skills whilst looking at flights from an operational perspective, not just from a training mindset. Along with standardisation James has been working on various other small courses as part of his Arnhem Land preparation.

During this period Danielle has spent much of her time helping fellow MAF families, particularly by looking after their children! She also has started working on the MAF February Induction. You might remember that this past July Danielle and I spent a week doing an induction with MAF. Well the next one is being run in Australia for new staff joining the organisation, and Danielle is part of the childcare team for it. She will be looking after the little ones, and helping some of the older ones think about the big transition their families will be making to a new country.



Left: Flying in the Airvan on standardisation with Captain Steven Biggs; Right: Flying over the rugged Australian outback in Northern Queensland;

The one final significant thing that happened in November was our trip to Arnhem Land, to get a feel for things there. We had such a great time exploring where our new home will be, and getting to know the MAF team out there. Do see the photos below that show a little of what it is like in Arnhem Land - of course more will follow as we settle next month!



Top: Some of the MAF Arnhem Land aircraft outside our hangar in Nhulunbuy (Gove), our home base;
Bottom Left: A homeland community with a small airstrip; Bottom Right: The start of 'The Track', the only way in or out other than by aircraft - the closest asphalt road is 700km away.

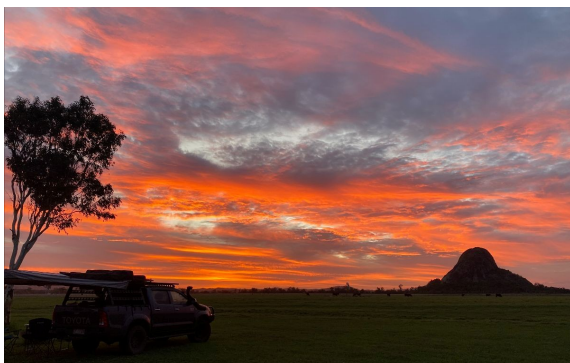


What do the next months hold for us?

James is finishing up a few of these smaller courses, but once complete we will be taking some time away from work over the Christmas period to prepare for our entry to Arnhem Land in the new year. We are praising the Lord that our visa application was approved quickly so this means James's first day of work in Arnhem Land will be January 20th.

Our plan for January is to leave Queensland on the 6th and then drive about 28 hours over 5 days to Darwin, in Darwin we will put our car on the barge which will be taken across to Arnhem Land. We thought about driving our car directly in to Arnhem Land, but that is another 10-15 hours of driving on 'the track' in the wet season, and at times during this season the road becomes impassable. We should have a week to set up our home in Arnhem Land before James starts work. Once he starts, he will spend a few weeks working on the ground with the operations team, before doing 2 weeks of supervised flying, by the end of February he should be flying single pilot operations, something he is very excited to finally be doing!

Danielle during this time will be setting up our home and lining up some options for her own work, it looks like there are several good possibilities, and we are hopeful she could start work at the Women's Refuge Centre about 10 minutes away from our home. There are also a few clinics where she may be able to use her Doula skills, and on top of that there is always a need for help within the MAF team - this could be in operations, but it also could be by assisting the family support officer in various ways. And as mentioned earlier, she will be flying back out of Arnhem Land for the first two weeks of February to help at the MAF induction being held near Cairns in Queensland.



A couple photos of us exploring Queensland, Australia over this Christmas break!

How can you pray for us?

Praise God for a productive few months, and for the arrival of our visa! Praise God for the community that has supported us in this time of transition and the team in Arnhem Land that have been already so helpful.

Praise God for the 4x4 car we have been able to obtain.

Please pray for a few weeks of rest as we prepare to enter the Arnhem Land program and get stuck in to life there.

Please pray for safe travels as we make the drive to Darwin.

As always, pray for the people of Arnhem Land, and our hearts as we prepare to connect with them.