



Caroline sits in the middle of the framework of our new Motel
& Conference facility currently under construction

Tales of a Missionary by David & Caroline Moore

Welcome to our August Newsletter 2024

Thank you for signing up to receive these, for your prayers and to those of you who are giving financial support. We are so grateful to have you on our team as we serve in PNG.

“Many Christians hear stories of God at work and think he could never use them that way because they aren't super-Christians. The truth is, there are no super-Christians. There are only normal people who have said yes to God.” Darren Wilson - God Adventures.

All Change

when we first came to the mission field we were warned that there is a fairly constant change over of personnel and so far this year this has been one of our biggest trials. As you will remember in November last Year Todd and Connie returned briefly before heading back to Idaho to care for their elderly parents which was quite a wrench for us to lose our best friends. Well since then in these last 8 months we have seen a further 8 families depart, whom all deserve a mention for their service to MAFI and the country of PNG.

- In December the Axon Family returned to Australia after 12 years in programme
- The Macrae's left after serving in our School Hostel for 2 years
- The Noordhoek's family returned to the Netherlands after Corne had served as a pilot here for 10 years
- Marion & Samuel Cusin who was serving in our IT team
- The Neufeld's left for Canada after 9 years of service
- the Kinigge's after 7 years
- the Muliwijk's after 6 years



Then just last week Doug and Yvonne who have been severing MAF for almost 40 years and been in and out of PNG for the last 10-15 years in various roles, and who most recently have been assisting as our interim country director, finally headed off into retirement.

There have been a couple of new short term arrivals, and we have several people on 6 months break, for weddings/babies/schooling etc. This leaves us as a programme reeling a little and struggling currently whilst MAFI seeks to fill many of the posts left vacant by these wonderful friends and families.

May the Lord continue to bless the Programme here in PNG and touch the lives of those he would have come and serve alongside us in PNG.

Kagamuga Build Project Latest Progress



Progress on the six new two bedroom houses is progressing well and internal decoration and electrical & plumbing second fix is now underway.

As can be seen from the video tour the framework for the motel building is now almost complete and stairs and both external and internal cladding is now underway.

With just one crane available in the whole of Mount Hagen it is often a balance for the contractors to find safe but effective ways of man handling materials such as here with getting the 7M long roofing sheets from the ground onto the top of the building using ropes and hooks, along with lots of safety gloves and hard hats.

Praise the Lord for the continuing progress.



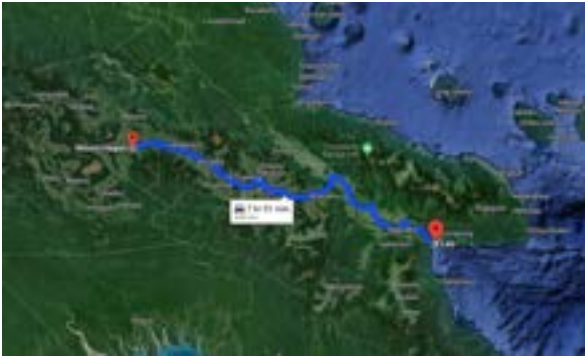
Installation of both Solar Hot Water and Solar Power has recently been completed both on the new houses but also on all of the existing 13 house on the compound.

Living in the Highlands

With no road access at all to Port Moresby the Capital of PNG up in the Highlands we are totally reliant on the Port of Lae for goods coming into PNG and from there over 450Km by road, or the 'Highlands Highway' as it is known.

One starts off with around 100Km of gradual climb up through the fluvial Markham Valley (the land of cows and milk) before beginning to climb up into the eastern Highlands to rising up past the Yonki Dam & Hydro Station (from which we in the Highlands get our power). Eventually rising up and over the Kassam pass (about 5,000ft), with its beautiful views luring unsuspecting tourists to stop and take pictures just before the gangs descend on them, as in a recent incident, and strip them of their belongings and vehicle.

One then descends almost 2000ft into the next valley before starting the long slow climb up the notorious 'Raskol Hill' so named after the gangs who patrol this area as the trucks slow down on the long ascent waiting for any trouble and taking full advantage of any problems the trucks might encounter.



Then down again into the Goroka Valley a rich landscape of almost 12,000SqKm weaving almost entirely from one end of the valley to the other and passing through Kainantu where one can turn off for Aiyura and the SIL (Wycliffe) mission station and then on through Goroka itself, where our second largest base of operations can be found nestled alongside the airstrip and close by our 2 national and 5 expat houses.

Driving the long winding road up through the Markham Valley with dom Sant and David Edsmyr back in Jan 2023 after collecting our latest minibus from Lae

From here one rises up over the highest road pass in PNG the 'Daulo Pass' at just over 8,100 ft before descending down and through Warabung, meaning the meeting (bung) of the rivers (wara). Weaving one's way along the valley and eventually rising again to Kundiawa (Chimbu) at around 5,000ft and then descending again through the outer edges of the western highlands before rising again this time over 'Kuli gap' (which was closed for 4 hours today when a twin steer container truck left the highway and destroyed two small shops killing 5 people. The truck was stripped of its contents in compensation. Then finally descending into the Hagen Valley still at around 5,500ft above sea level .

A total journey of some 10-12 hours or more on the road and one I have thoroughly enjoyed doing twice since being here in its entirety and several times more, the roughly half way to Goroka and back.



Subsidence damage due to a major landslide



road left rippled after recent earthquake

However the nature of this reliance on such a long mountain route for the majority of our goods and materials is that the road is prone to Raskols, tribal fighting, the jungle encroachment, severe landslides and major floods. The photos above were taken of an 18 month old section of road between Kundiawa and Hagen on my last trip. This can often result as we are currently

experiencing a complete cut off of supplies to Mount Hagen leaving us checking the already well stocked cupboards to ensure that we can manage until the next trucks can make their way back up the highway.

Below are some images of a recent truck which ran off the road around a week ago close to the Kasam Pass and which within 20-30 minutes had been stripped of its entire contents as it disappeared off into the bush and down the road in both directions.



Then just this week during the current wet season here the river down at Yalu broke its banks and swept away the main bridge between Lae the Port and its Airport around 50Km inland at Nadzab. This has left us already for 3-4 days without any road connection or even the ability to lift goods out of Nadzab (Lae Airstrip) as this to is currently completely isolated from the port of Lae itself.

Fortunatley, this is a section of road which is currently being upgraded although it is still looking likely that it will be over a week before a reliable wet crossing can be established for any heavy traffic or anything much other than those on foot and those risking crossing in their land cruisers.

The replacement bridge, will due to the damage to both the old bridge and the foundations of the new one along with the river now being almost 120ft wider than before could yet be several months, causing ongoing interruptions and delays in supplies and goods into the highlands.

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The images above show the loss of the bridge over the last few days at Yalu crossing between Lae and Nadzab at the start of the Highlands Highway. in the picture below see some of those attempting early wet crossings in their personal vehicles today, sadly it is reported that not all of those attempting this today were successful



Kidnappings & Tear Gas

Some of you may remember from our early newsletters that where we are located in Tarangau within Mount Hagen, we live opposite the local primary school and an area known as Gomis Field or Oval.

For the first few years we were here not a lot happened on the field after the local rugby league was banned after the death of a number of people after the final in 2018 before we arrived.

We ourselves as MAF you may also remember have held a number of outreach events on the field to share MAF's purpose and mission in country with the local people.

Since last year the rugby has restarted which means on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon the field is packed with over a thousand people watching both male and female teams from the local rugby league compete.



Unfortunately towards the end of play last Sunday fighting broke out amongst supporters which was swiftly dealt with by police firing tear gas onto the field to disperse the crowds. As these crowds began to move away but still fighting police fired tear gas again with at least two of the cannisters landing in our Hi Rise & Nazerene compound (edged in red above).

As it was quite a sullen evening the cloud of gas hung in the air with the families on Hi-Rise and Naz being heavily affected and the cloud seeping as far as our own compound edged in green. Surprisingly the tear gas actually works incredibly well (stinging eyes and uncomfortable breathing) and the crowds rapidly dispersed within a few minutes but leaving the cloud hanging over us in our compounds for around an hour. Praise the Lord that there were no serious injuries and the Rugby went off without a hitch yesterday.



Unfortunately there has also been, although relatively uncommon, both a kidnapping and an attack on some of the chinese workers here in Mount Hagen recently who are building the new roads.

The kidnaping which resulted in a a number of arrests saw the victims family all released within a few hours although later it was announced that the Chinese firm had paid a ransom which is quite concerning.

Praise & Prayer

Praise God For:

Corbus who is settling in well and allowign Dave more time to focus on some of the larger projects, whilst he manages the team on a day to day basis. Nellis continues to be a real asset helping to focus and drive the contractors on our new building project for the housing and conference/motel facility.

Caroline also successfully had an old tooth implant removed and we are both due back to POM shortly to have the new teeth fitted!

Priase the Lord with us as Tony & Magaret (Dave's mum and Dad) Celebrate their 60th Wedding anniversary and that we will be abe to join the celebrations albeit via Whatsapp

That Catherine our Daughter has just got engaged, and we are looking forward to a wedding next year.

Please pray for:

Please continue to pray for the PNG Government who are continuing to fight votes of no confidence, which is unsettling the already fragile balance of power across the country.

The fuel crisis rumbles on and on with power being greatly affected in many remote areas and ourselves having to bring in fuel at added expense from New Zealand with sadly as of yet no real end in sight despite both Government and fuel supplier promises

Please pray for those involved in the increased tension in the area to come under Gods grace and experience real change.

Please pray for protection and safety for the whole team at this time

Please pray for us to have resilience and strength to finish our term well.

Thank you