



# Hello everyone!

It's been wonderful to see so many of you over the past two months. What an absolute treat to spend time with many of the churches, families and individuals who are accompanying us during our service with MAF. Welcome to all you folks who signed up to join us on this journey and are receiving a Norbs Abroad update for the first time!

## Tracy writes:

It's been less than two months since we left our home in Mount Hagen and, even after lots of lovely experiences in the UK, Papua New Guinea still feels like home. We miss the cool, dark nights (we've been reminded how challenging sleeping in UK summertime can be when daylight lasts for over 16 hours), the avocados from our garden, and the MAF staff family, local and international, who so thoroughly loved us out of our Hagen home.

However, we're also making the most of being back in the UK: Rosie got her wish of going to a zoo for her birthday, we've eaten plenty of our favourite foods (Indian, Lebanese and Italian) and we've had the absolute JOY of seeing family and friends in 3D instead of via video call.

We have three more weeks in England in which to visit supporters and spend our last times with family. It feels very odd to imagine that in less than a month we'll be waking up each morning in Bougainville to a gorgeous view of the Pacific Ocean and to help carry out what the Lord has in mind for such a far-flung (for British people, at least) part of the world. Looking forward to telling you all about it in our next update!

## Home assignment tasks completed:



Dental check-ups and treatment

Medical checks, blood tests and vaccinations

Pastoral debrief appointments

Church/group visits and presentations

Visits to MAF UK and MAF International offices

Clothes and shoe-shopping for the kids for one year

Shopping for essentials – new cafetiere/coffeepress filters, books, tea etc.

Researching and buying homeschool materials for the coming year (and trying them out in advance to make transition to Bougainville easier for the whole family)

## Things that have changed since our last home assignment (two years ago):

Costa Coffee shops now sell tiramisu-flavoured coffee!

I'm more confused than ever by the self-checkout machine at Aldi supermarket

Roll-top backpacks are A Thing

I spend even longer than trying to figure out the recycling bin options in public places

I feel cold a lot even though it's been a very warm summer

We have deeper connections with our supporters and supporting churches – what a joy



Rosie and Oliver both get 'lost' in the books they are reading

It seems like most of the cars on the motor/highway have adaptive cruise control – will they all be driving themselves by the next time we come back to the UK?!



#### Fraser writes:

It has been great, being back in the UK. It is such a good time to connect, pray, learn, be encouraged and hopefully encourage others. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for us, supported us and been our friends.

As we head towards our last few weeks in the UK, we are wondering more and more what the next few years hold. We are praying for our colleagues already in Bougainville, praying for the resources needed to set up operations in Bougainville and praying that God would prepare us as a family so we are ready to serve as effectively as possible. And in these last few weeks, I'm doing my best to eat as much cheese as possible - it's a mission I'm truly well-qualified for!



#### Rosie writes:

I had ten pounds but I spent five on a feather quill and ink. The juice at our church camp tasted like candy. The beach was really good for body-boarding and there were huge waves and my cousin taught me a good trick about it.

#### Oliver writes:

I found home assignment to be very anti-climactic in that we did not do as much travelling as I expected. (It's very hard to think what to write while crunching on a carrot.) My uncle, who is a chemistry teacher, gave me a rugby t-shirt from his school, and so we bought a rugby tee and ball to play with on holiday in the Peak District and in Bougainville.

If you are a person who prays we'd love it if you could keep scrolling to our prayer update below. If you have any questions about anything we've written this month please feel free to get back to us at [team.norfolk@maf.org](mailto:team.norfolk@maf.org) With love from Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Rosie

And finally: we are so delighted to be part of your journey with MAF and to have you accompanying us on our journey too!

We hold it as an honour to serve with this amazing MAF family to bring help, hope and healing to some of the most isolated communities on the planet – and all in the name of our amazing King Jesus. What an incredible reason to roll out of bed each morning! Thank you to all of you who make this possible through your prayerful, financial and personal support.

**Last time we asked you to pray for:**

- **Our conversations with and presentations to supporters in the UK** – these seemed to go well, praise the Lord!
- **Our time reconnecting with friends and family** – we've had some very special times and are looking forward to some 'last hurrahs' with various family members before we head back to Melanesia in three weeks' time
- **Our boss in Bougainville, John Woodberry** – there have been some very positive developments since we last wrote, praise the Lord.

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

- **Our flights back** – for timely transfers, effective use of our day at the MAF International office in Australia, and safe arrival in Bougainville
- **A smooth start in Bougainville** – good sleep, settled tummies and wisdom about how to look after ourselves as we get used to the heat and humidity
- **Positive first contacts** – with colleagues, community members/leaders, and potential friends