



News from Norbs Abroad

Hello everybody!

We're so glad to have this chance again to think through the last couple of months and let you know how it's been. Thank you to those of you who have been in touch since we sent out our 'Big News' in our previous update. We love being on the same team as each of you!



Tracy writes:

I had a brilliant conversation with a new friend last week about what it means to be 'born again'. We talked about how we live 'parallel' or 'concurrent' lives as both inhabitants of planet Earth and citizens of the Kingdom of God. Anna, my friend, pointed out that Jesus said, '*...We speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen...*' because He was living His first-century life on Earth still completely united with His Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit - the Trinity didn't disband when Jesus was born as a human baby! There are SUCH implications to chew on when we read the second chapter of the gospel of John in the light of this...

Many of you read our previous update in which we explained that we're moving from the Western Highlands of PNG to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to help launch MAF operations there. As we're coming to the UK for home assignment beforehand, we've now got fewer than three months to go before leaving Mount Hagen. The past few weeks have contained lots of big emotions as the kids and I have begun selling toys, planning farewells and clearing out cupboards.

Some of you know that we also have a second home in PNG: *Mount Olive Fellowship Home* in the neighbouring province of Jiwaka in an 'end of the road' valley called Del. Our good friends there have partnered with us and some other folks to build a substantial 'bush haus' to offer rest and relaxation to Christian workers and help bring folks together from different cultures who are serving in PNG. The house sits at the foot of a prayer mountain with a beautiful waterfall close-by and is enveloped in something that is very precious to Mount Hagen-dwellers: peace and quiet!

Our friend Pastor Samuel and his crew worked solidly for the past four weeks to erect the roof and make it habitable so that we can stay with them a few times before we leave for home assignment in June. We'll share more before/during/after photos of the building work in our next update once the house is nearer completion.



Our friends and co-workers in the Kingdom: Mary with her husband, Pastor Samuel (blue t-shirt), and her father, grandfather, great-uncle and nearby relatives who are building Mount Olive Fellowship Home in the hamlet of Del. Their daughters, Jamie and Tracy, tag along too!

As we approach the 4th anniversary of our arrival in PNG (30th April for those who are interested!) we would like to thank you for the privilege it has been to come on this MAF journey with you. At this time, the end of our first MAF 'term', we want to emphasise how entirely IMPOSSIBLE it would have been to serve in PNG without the friendship, financial support and prayerfulness by which you, our supporters, have sustained us. We also realise that lots of you are involved in all kinds of causes, crises and kindnesses, some of which now require a bigger part of your prayers, your finances and your cheer-leading. If this sounds like you, we release you with our blessing to stop supporting us. We're so grateful for how you've cheered us on.

Fraser writes:

I have had the chance to reflect on the events of the past four years. Like most people, I recognise there are plenty of areas where I could have done better, but there are also several achievements that I'm proud of from my time as Head of Finance.

Firstly, we made substantial changes to many of our underlying systems and billing processes.

While it may seem mundane, this has been an important step forward in reducing our fraud risk and enhancing our financial reporting. It is satisfying to see that it is running smoothly.

Secondly, we have looked at the fees we charge our customers. This has allowed us to refine our focus, ensuring that we are better supporting the most isolated communities and organisations dedicated to serving the people of Papua New Guinea.

Lastly, we have navigated some major challenges in the country, including Covid, elections, and a 'fuel crisis', and we have come through well. Although I was just one part of the team, I am proud to have played my part.

Oliver writes:

I'm excited and nervous about sleeping in Del overnight. Moving to Bougainville is also a big concept to include. I also figured out how to solve a Rubix cube, which is fun.

We also wonder whether some may feel like now is the time to step up in support. If this sounds like you, we invite you to consider either or both of these options:

Join our Transition Support Squad: This will involve receiving brief updates and prayer requests from us in the months between our normal Norbs Abroad updates. 'Squad Notes' will be sent out between August this year and April next stage while we Norburys transition into our new posting in MAF Bougainville. If you'd like to join the squad, please email us at team.norbury@hotmail.com Support us financially: Please come and fill the gaps that we've released others to leave open for you! To find out how, visit <https://maf-uk.org/get-involved/support-our-staff/fraser-and-tracy-norbury/>



Rosie writes:

My favourite thing about Del is tadpole pool. It's a pool with lots and lots of tadpoles. And sometimes they swim across the pool and then you can just scoop them up. And it's really fun.

Oliver, Rosie, Fraser and friends playing in Tadpole Pool at the top of the waterfall in Del.

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.norbury@hotmail.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Feel free to share your news with us too – we love to hear it.

With love from Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Rosie

Last time we asked you to pray for:

Oliver and Rosie as they set their hearts on what the Lord has for them next - the transition process has begun and we can continue to pray them through it.

John and Corinne Woodberry: they are now based in Bougainville and directing the launch of MAF there with both wisdom and gusto!

The MAF PNG family: currently there are no staff available to cover Tracy and Fraser's roles full time when they go on home assignment. Please keep praying.

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

Tracy and Fraser as they consider how to 'end well' in their current roles

Oliver's new and old passports which are currently in the UK and need to wing their way to PNG so we can bring him with us on home assignment!

All of the practicalities involved in selling our car, packing up our house and shipping our belongings to Bougainville before coming to the UK in June