

## Hello friends!

We're writing this update from the comfort of the sofa and thought you might like to see what we can see: a beautifully coral-stencilled wall, punctuated on each side by the front door (left) and Oliver's bedroom door (right – with warnings signs of his choosing!).

It's been a tough six weeks and an important mental lifeline was this amazing verse from Saint John's eyewitness account of the life of Jesus: "You did not choose me: I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures." - John 15:16. What an amazing encouragement on a challenging day. All the things we do to try to live up to Jesus' amazingness are totally out-classed by how he continues to choose us, even on our worst days, and promises us that when we do what He's made us for, none of it will rot away.

## Tracy writes:

Since we last wrote at the beginning of December there have been some big ups and downs. The biggest up was having our lovely friends, a Danish family from MAF in Mount Hagen, come and visit us for Christmas. Tajs, Rebecca and William brought with them some very fun Danish traditions, an incredible roast duck recipe, and a warm reminder of what it is to have friends close-by who have known us for longer than six months. We took them on a snorkelling trip to Christmas Island and were permitted to harvest from there a young pine-ish-looking tree which did a decent job of impersonating a proper Christmas tree – what fun! It was so good to catch up, talk about shared memories and friends and feel connected to our former lives as part of MAF in Mount Hagen.



*Tajs killed, plucked and gutted our Christmas duck while Fraser and William hung out.  
Rebecca and Tajs also treated us to 'toffee potatoes' - very delicious!*

When our friends left us it was tough: we spent the next three weeks entirely alone on our compound, the internet connect was so poor that it was almost impossible to speak with friends and family in the UK, and a coral scratch on Fraser's ankle swelled up rather disgustingly and made us a little worried. When medical professionals raised the possibility of surgery it felt unsettling as this would require an emergency trip to Port Moresby, an hour-long plane ride away on the PNG mainland. Add into the mix some upset tummies a bout of flu and suspected malaria (hence the lateness of this update), and that's quite a potent recipe for self-pity and miserableness.

However...feel free to praise the Lord with us that Fraser's ankle responded well to antibiotics, our compound neighbours returned in mid-January, and MAF sent our regional IT manager, Karlos, over here to improve the compound internet connection (although this is still a work in progress). We continue to rely on the Lord for protection of our health and bodies.

In the middle of all of these ups and downs, our sense of being 'chosen' and 'appointed' into this work in Bougainville has been a bolster to my courage. I've also been mightily encouraged by spending time with our small but perfectly formed team of local staff. It's such fun serving as their HR manager and seeking out the new recruits that the Lord has in mind to join our team. (I'll introduce them to you in our next update after we've finished our current round of job interviews.)

The other big news is about the kids...for them to share in their own words...

**Oliver writes:**

I saw a group of 3 squid and daddy saw a shark in the bay. Also, I started school



**Rosie writes:**

My school day schedule:

Get up go school come home swim eat repeat

Saturday schedule:

Get up have pancakes swim eat repeat

I am still getting used to school but it seems like a nice school

**Fraser writes:**

We are so close to being able to tell you loads of exciting updates! The hangar build is achingly close to starting, just waiting on one more certificate. The pilots are teasingly close to getting through the administrative hoops they need to. The aviation manager can be confirmed after one more medical.

Tracy and I are both loving what we do, I can't imagine how good it will be when operations actually start.

Looking forward to updating you in the next newsletter.

Before we get to the prayer part, we have something important to say:

1. We are so grateful for each of you who support us through your friendship, your finances, your prayers, and all the many practical encouragements that you offer to cheer us on (e.g. fun parcels and accommodation/transport/food/fun when we are in the UK – you know who you are!).
2. We cannot overstate how wonderful it is to wake up each morning knowing that we are in the Lord's hand and in the right geographical place at the right time doing what He's appointed us to do. It's your prayers and your financial support that got us into this incredible situation and it's your prayers and your finances that keep us here in Bougainville for as long as the Lord has in mind for us to stay.
3. We LOVE serving with MAF. As we MAFers say, it's not a perfect organisation by any means, but it is fully committed to throwing itself at what the Lord is leading it into, with wisdom, experience and skill. MAF is powered by God's grace. It's a privilege to serve God and the people of Bougainville under the MAF banner and to wear the MAF uniform each day.

4. MAF needs your help. You probably already know the dire financial straits that many UK charities are in and MAF finds itself in a very challenging time right now. Even if you've never prayed before, please join us in praying for more finances to support MAF's operations across the world, and please also pray for more suitably experienced pilots, engineers, accountants and managers to join MAF to help bring help, hope and healing to isolated communities. Please also consider whether it's right for you personally to explore joining MAF, either as a financial supporter or as a prospective staff member. Any financial support that is given to us via the MAF UK website goes first to ensuring that our personal needs are met (e.g. housing, medical support, food and family needs), and then any surplus is assigned to the wider MAF family.

If you could please prayerfully consider what your part is in the story of MAF we would be so grateful! And if you feel prompted, please go to our updated page of the MAF UK website (including our Christmas morning family photo) to respond to that prompting: <https://maf-uk.org/get-involved/support-our-staff/fraser-and-tracy-norbury/>

Thank you for reading this far feel free to scroll down for our prayer updates. For now, we'll sign off with heartfelt love and gratitude from

Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Rosie

Last time we asked you to pray for:

- **A quiet and peaceful holiday season** – thank you Lord for fully answered prayers!
- **Our new and soon-to-be recruited staff members** – please keep praying! We are holding second round interviews for two essential roles right now (mid Feb) so discernment is needed.
- **Oliver and Rosie as they start their new school** – praise the Lord that He has provided friendly school mates and lovely teachers. We are so grateful to Him.

This time we'd love it if you could pray for:

- **Stamina and good quality rest for our family:** There is a lot of great work to do between now and our next update. We'll need grace and wisdom to get it done in a healthy and God-honouring way.
- **Heavenly timing:** MAF Bougainville is facing issues that to us look like roadblocks: a chaotic visa application process for new staff, hold-ups with key infrastructure projects and delayed funding. Pray that we as a team would discern where we need to 'push on' in prayer and where we need to wait on the Lord's leading to stay within His schedule.
- **Our Bible-translating partner organisations:** for heavenly momentum, divine appointments and renewed energy for the various translation projects of SIL/Wycliffe and the PNG Bible Translator Association in Bougainville.