



## News from Norbs Abroad

Happy new year everybody!

We hope your January has been as free of the 'blues' as possible and that as you turn your face to February you are filled with heavenly hope – it's strong stuff!



### FRASER AND TRACY NORBURY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

#### **Tracy writes:**

I'm facing February with fear and trembling. At a work meeting this week it seemed as though the Lord pointed out my need to swap my anxieties about the coming months for reverent fear: that as I look to Him, *'living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit'* (like the church in Acts 9:31), all the day-to-day stuff and forward-planning will take it's proper and rather smaller place in my heart.

This is crucial right now as we Norburys prepare to head to our next place abroad. Last time we updated you we mentioned that the end of our initial term with MAF is approaching (April 2025 marks our first four years of service) and we asked you to pray with us about what the Lord has for us next.

We feel like over the last two months He has made the way clear. In mid-December last year, Fraser and I were formally announced as the joint Launch Team Managers of MAF's new programme in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. We will be working under the Directorship of John Woodberry who, along with his wife Corinne, will lead the launch of this new program and will move to Bougainville in March 2025 to get the groundwork started. We will join them in September 2025 and take up the leadership of the Launch Project by the end of the year (as the Woodberrys are due to leave Bougainville in December 2025).

This is how we currently expect the coming months/years to look (Lord willing!):

**Feb-April:** Start to hand over our current roles in MAF PNG to other staff and begin inputting into the Bougainville Project Launch.

**May-June:** Complete handover of our roles, pack and ship our belongings, and say 'lukim yu bihain'/'goodbye for now' to our friends and MAF family in PNG.

**June-August:** Home assignment and holiday in the UK

**September-December:** Move to Bougainville and begin handover of Project Launch leadership from John Woodberry

**December 2025-sometime in 2026:** Farewell John and Corinne Woodberry and complete the launch phase of MAF Bougainville, including handover to a permanent Country Director

If this all sounds like a bit of a whirlwind to you, it sure feels like one to me! However, Fraser and I and the kids are looking forward to what lies ahead and feel assured that the Lord has prepared the way for us, the Woodberrys and this new MAF Programme.



Bryan Matthews (General Manager of MAF Technologies), John Woodberry and Fraser await their first-look-visit flight to Bougainville



Tracy, Corinne Woodberry and our colleague Lornah await a MAF flight to visit the MAF Technologies team

### What we know so far about Bougainville:

- 1) It is currently a province of Papua New Guinea.
- 2) It's very humid with average noon temperatures of 30-35°C.
- 3) It suffered civil war from 1988 until 1999.
- 4) It aims to become independent of PNG no later than 2027.
- 5) The churches and the President of Bougainville formally invited MAF to set up operations there.

### What we know so far about John and Corinne Woodberry:

- 1) They have served with MAF in various parts of the world for 32 years.
- 2) They are great at MAF programme start-ups.
- 3) They love to laugh.
- 4) They possess wisdom and experience that Fraser and I will hugely benefit from.
- 5) They will beat us hands-down when we play the game 'Balderdash' with them.

**Oliver writes:**

**I'm getting rather mixed felings about Bougainville. I guess I'm just used to moving around all the time. I just don't know what to feel. It's annoyingly complicated.**

**Rosie writes:**

I just feel like I have mixed emotions. Part of me says 'argh' and part of me says 'yay' about Bougainville. And I just feel really sad.



Oliver and Rosie have been enjoying bashing stuff with hammers in our shed



Oliver flattened metal curtain poles to make three Lord Of The Rings-style blades

If you are a person who prays we'd love it if you could keep scrolling to our prayer update. If you have any questions about this big news please feel free to get back to us at [team.norbury@hotmail.com](mailto:team.norbury@hotmail.com) and we'll do our best to answer them, and feel free to share your news with us too – we love to hear it.

Thank you for being part of this new development in our lives and in the Asia Pacific region! We see so much potential to bring help, hope and healing to the people of Bougainville as they prepare for the birth of the world's newest nation. We wouldn't be part of it without your financial support and your practical and spiritual cheer-leading of our family and our service here. We're looking forward to taking you along with us on this journey!

With love from Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Rosie

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

- **All four of us** as we turn our hearts on what the Lord has for our family in 2025 – praise Him that He has made His way clear!
- **Fraser** as the financial year-end process began – please continue to pray for him as he navigates this pressurised time of year.
- For the urgent recruitment of **two accountants** – this remains a very urgent prayer need and one that will have knock-on effects in MAF Bougainville.

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

- **Oliver and Rosie** as they share their Big News with their teachers and school friends and set their hearts on what the Lord has for them next
- **John and Corinne Woodberry** as they visit Bougainville in February and prepare to move there in March
- **The MAF PNG family** as they recruit staff to cover Fraser and Tracy's roles and adjust to the changes our move brings