



Family photo at Sinfin Moor Church.

Home assignment

We felt encouraged, refreshed, and somewhat exhausted after our 6-week home-assignment tour of the UK. We enjoyed reconnecting with friends and family, visiting our favourite places, and just generally being back in the UK. We loved the longer days bringing time to walk in the evenings, our kids experienced the highlights of being able to walk around freely without grown-ups in the UK. We even enjoyed the odd rain shower (it's quite different from a PNG tropical rainstorm!).

We enjoyed speaking at 7 different churches, sharing fellowship, and meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ. Our first church engagement was within hours of landing, and our last was just 2 days before we left for PNG. A huge thank you to all the people who shared their homes with us, cooked meals for us, arranged shared lunches at churches – we felt hugely blessed and loved by every church we spoke at.



One of the things that encouraged us most though, was seeing growth in almost every church we visited! Having been away from our 'home churches' for 2 years, we returned to meet many new faces, each with a story of how God has called them into the church. Be encouraged. God is doing great things in your churches, no matter what it might feel like – God is at work in the UK!

Our home assignment wasn't without complications, as we had difficulty getting Sequoia's new visa processed. This resulted in Sequoia, Abi and Emma flying home via Australia for a few days, to collect a visa. It was a great chance to get over some of the jetlag, and the girls enjoyed an extra few days together, although they were then late for school by a week!

Settling back into PNG – a new location



The Ukarumpa 'Lutheran Hostel'.

Since we have returned to PNG we have moved, 40 minutes by plane, from our home in Mount Hagen to 'the Hostel' at Ukarumpa International School, Aiyura Valley. This is where Abi has been attending school for the past 2 years, and had previously been boarding with 'hostel parents'. Unfortunately, the hostel parents left PNG in June, and so we have moved as a family to enable the MAF students to remain at the school. Abi is continuing into Grade 10, Emma has just started Grade 8, and Isaac is now being home-schooled starting Year 7. The students have plenty of opportunities to hang-out with other teenagers, play sports, and walk outdoors.

We have enjoyed unpacking and settling again after spending so much time moving around the UK. It has been great to get to know a new community of people in PNG. The centre here hosts Wycliffe and SIL staff working on Bible Translations, training, and building projects, and it's interesting learning about other mission work going on in PNG. Sequoia has joined a weekly bible study group, and we have been invited to the monthly board game night, so we are slowly making friends.

Living here does have its' own challenges. The market is open 6-8am two mornings a week (week 1 was pretty rubbish when Sequoia forgot to set her alarm!), the store sells essentials but is limited, so we now bake a loaf of bread every morning, and Dom recently brought back 50kg of frozen meat from Mount Hagen to keep us fed! Dom spends roughly 1 week in Mount Hagen working at the MAF HQ, and 1 week with the family working from a spare bedroom.

Dom



Dom and Isaac at 'the jewel', Singapore Airport

Dom has settled into working partly from home, and partly from the office. Visiting the office gives lots of opportunity for face-to-face time, and relationship building (a key aspect of PNG culture). In September, Dom will be travelling to Cairns, Australia, to help facilitate the MAF Safety Managers course. One of his team, Joshua, will be attending the training.

Sequoia

Sequoia, Abi and Emma at the Royal Armories in Leeds.



I have been enjoying time at the hostel. Most of my time is taken up supporting Isaac with his home schooling and planning what meals we are going to have. I am also continuing my work with the orientation committee from a distance, to help new staff settle into PNG well.

Abigail

Abigail at Malham Cove

I absolutely loved being able to see my family and the amount of new people I met in the different churches, especially seeing how much everything had grown. I also really liked the walks along the beach and cliffs in Filey and Scarborough and Cornwall, seeing different scenery.

Coming back to my home here in Ukarumpa has been amazing. I've enjoyed coming back and seeing friends again as well as getting back to school. I'm really looking forward to the teen ministry 4-day weekend this month, and having fun with people there.



Emma

Emma with our good friend Doug at a garden party in Derby



I really enjoyed going for long walks, like Malham Cove and Roundhay park. I also really liked going to Cornwall with my family. We played laser tag/battle royale in Filey with family. That was really fun!

I enjoy my new school a lot!!! I especially enjoy playing touch rugby after school, and having a period for PE every day, and playing Ultimate Frisbee with my classmates. I also like hanging out with my friends and going for walks around campus. I have lunch with a friend once a week on Thursdays which I really enjoy as well.

Isaac

Isaac enjoying the grounds of AFD software in the Isle of Man.



I really enjoyed seeing family. In England I liked visiting the zoo, seeing Minions 4 at the cinema, and spending lots of 2p at the arcades. I hated the flight from England to Singapore because I was sick at least 4 or 5 times, and then fell asleep on the floor in Singapore airport. I felt a bit better when we went to the roof-top pool at the airport, and I had an apple juice.

I really like the hostel in Ukarumpa. Even though I don't go to the school here, I still go the Youth groups on Wednesday lunchtime and Sunday night. I just had my 12th birthday; we had a movie night party and a sleepover.

How can you pray for us?

Please continue to lift the MAF in PNG programme:

- Staff shortages in key areas (Country Director, pilots, managers etc.)
- Safety of pilots, planes, staff
- Wisdom for the leadership team without a Country Director

Ukarumpa International School (the school our teens attend) is suffering huge teacher shortages, which could impact the number of missionary families they can support (both our children, and the children of their own translators and staff).