

Santastic Update

Find out about what has been happening in PNG with the Sant family



The Sant family on holiday in Cairns, Australia

Does the axe raise itself above the person who swings it, or the saw boast against the one who uses it? As if a rod were to wield the person who lifts it up, or a club brandish the one who is not wood! - Isaiah 10:15

Israel rebelled against the Lord, they had been carved into 2, and then sent into exile. One of the Lord's chosen tools was Sargon, King of Assyria. He was the chosen rod that God would use to punish Israel for their rebellion against him. However, God, being sovereign, was still in control.

In Isaiah 10:15 there is a rather humorous passage that talks about an axe trying to swing itself against the person that swings it, a saw raising up and cutting the person using it, a rod that lifts itself up and strikes the one using it, and lastly a club that anarchy. When the people of the Lord had been taken into exile, it may have looked like God had lost. But he was over it all.

I am made acutely aware it is the same with us. God graciously uses us as tools to further his kingdom, but we must never forget, all that we do is enabled by God. He is the one who wields us.

I am not sure what picture came to your mind when you read the passage, the idea of a weapon rising and beating the owner, as if in a Tom and Jerry cartoon, but as humorous as that may seem to us is the idea of us acting against the sovereign God's will.

Update

We are currently in the midst of another season of change in the programme and as a family. Here's a quick overview of the major happenings the past few months:

Dom has been appointed as MAF in PNG Country Director as of June, which he was doing as interim from last September.

The PNG programme has received a new plane – P2-AFD was welcomed into PNG in June 2025, and has already flown for 122 hours. We will also be welcoming P2-GRA and P2-PKM into programme later this year. Please praise God for the donors of these 3 aircraft.

2 of our existing pilots are training to fly P2-WET, our amphibious 'float' plane, which will mainly serve the communities in the Western Province around Lake Murray. Pray for these 2 pilots as they train, and for God to steer this work into the areas He wants served.

We have welcomed 6 new International families into the programme this year already, and will welcome another 4 in September. Praise the Lord for bringing workers onto the field, and for each of these families to feel God's hand as they settle.



Dom, Sequoia and Isaac at the arrival of P2-AFD

In June and July, Dom's parents came to visit us. We were able to show them around our home in PNG, including the market and stores, and our workplace, and they were even able to go on a flight with one of our pilots to a few isolated communities and see the work of MAF first-hand. It was a huge blessing to share our lives with them.



The family a local coffee processing factory



At the end of July, after saying bye to Dom's parents, we flew across to Ukarumpa where we dropped off Abi, Emma and Isaac, where they all board with MAF hostel parents so they can attend high school full-time. This means that for 40 weeks a year, Sequoia and I are on our own in Mount Hagen. It has been a big adjustment, but we are really encouraged by how all the kids are settling together. More on that later...

Our mission here in PNG continues. We are still encouraged by the work that God is doing in PNG. We see medivacs, teacher transport, missionaries reaching remote communities, and medical teams using our services regularly. It is hard to convey to you how isolated some parts of PNG continue to be. The need for MAF continues to be great in this country, and we are happy to be able to join in with God's mission to PNG.

Those of you on our whatsapp group will know much of what has been happening over the last few months. This remains the primary way that we communicate regularly with you. If you are not part of the whatsapp group click the button below or scan the QR code above with your phone's camera.

Dom

Another exciting development since we last wrote was that Dom has now taken on the full-time role as Country Director for MAF in PNG. This means that I oversee all aspects of operations in the country, leading our team of roughly 33 international staff and 110 local staff. Please pray for wisdom as Dom leads the programme in PNG.

MAF are currently going through a tough budgeting process, as we seek to bring as much impact as we can to all the countries in which we serve, while ensuring the long-term financial stability required. In PNG we have lots of exciting plans to bring more impact to the country, however, these all require resources. People and pennies. please pray that the Lord will provide the resources to enable MAF to bring more help, hope and healing to the people in the countries that we serve.

In June, I was invited to speak at the Business Council for PNG on the subject of Isolation. It was a great opportunity for me to introduce the subject of 'overcoming isolation'. The talk was well received and helped bring the challenge of isolation to around 200 business leaders who were sat in the room.

I am enjoying the new role and the increased responsibilities; however I have noticed more signs of stress on my body. Particularly tightness and knots that appear across my upper back and shoulders. Although I don't 'feel' too stressed, my body is potentially telling me a different story. Please pray that I would find a good work/life balance, and that I would be provided with relief from the pain in my back and shoulders.



Dom following his presentation at the Business Council in Port Moresby with other NGO leaders
The Facilities and Vehicle team at the farewell for Dave

Sequoia

The facilities and vehicles team has changed a little over the past few months with a few people leaving us and a few new team members. My boss of 3 years, Dave, has returned back to the UK and we had a really blessed farewell as a team for him. I am enjoying getting to know new colleagues, and am building a good relationship with my new boss, Cobus.

In September, I have the opportunity to visit 10 of our operational bases, in the space of a week. We spend about 2-3 hours on the ground at each location, and I hope to check on our housing and base facilities, to see where we can plan work for next year. I'm really excited as I haven't really travelled in PNG before (I normally stay home with the children), and I'm excited to meet our colleagues rather than just over email.

We have 4 new international families joining us this month. It's a busy month for families in Mount Hagen who welcome them, show them around, and help them to settle. Please pray for these families, and the Orientation Committee as we prepare to welcome each of these families.

We will also host the Connect Conference (116 adults and children) in October for our families to gather together, pray, fellowship and learn something about God. We are blessed to have a team from New Zealand volunteer to lead the teaching and children's work. Please pray as we organise this conference, pray for it to be spiritually refreshing, a good time of connection, encouragement, and fellowship for our families.



Emma and Cassia, the horse she is learning to ride. Abi on holiday discovering Australian creepy crawlies!

Abi

I loved the time I was able to spend with my Nana and Grandad in PNG and on holiday in Australia. I loved showing them a bit of PNG and going out to eat for Nana's birthday. In Australia, I really enjoyed meeting some other girls my age at church and going to get coffee with them after the service. Now that I'm back in Ukarumpa, it's a little too quiet because so many people are away on home assignment. There are currently only 5 of the 14 people in my class. However, I enjoy my classes this year; my favourites are Apologetics, and Environmental Science, because I enjoy learning more about both Christianity as a religion and the different systems on earth.

Emma

I enjoyed the summer spent in Australia with my grandparents but am very happy to be back in Ukarumpa.

I am particularly loving choir and my other extracurricular activities such as leading youth worship, being part of the music theory club, and working at the centre's burger bar on a Friday night. I am also enjoying being part of the girl's rugby team, although it is very taxing as the training has become more intense.

Since returning in July, I have taken up riding lessons at the SIL horse club on Saturdays. I have been helping clean the horses for the last year, so it is nice to be able to ride them; I am especially excited, since I am nearly finished with the classes and will be able to ride unsupervised.

Isaac

We went to Australia in the July holiday. I really enjoyed my time with my grandparents. We went to Cairns, and then Sydney which was really cold. In Cairns we went to a crocodile park. I was glad to have a holiday out of PNG.

I recently moved to a boarding school away from my parents. The hostel parents are really kind and fun to hang out with. I have made friends and am enjoying my time here. The school is short on teachers so I can only take four classes - algebra, english, science and wood shop. Please pray that I would continue doing well in school and that the school would get more teachers.

Last Saturday I turned 13.

I and am enjoying my newfound freedom in Ukarumpa.



Isaac in woods class

Financial Update

If you made it this far in our update, well done!

Those of you have been on this journey with us since 2021, when we first started testing the call to MAF, will know that our ability to be in PNG is financially supported by churches and individuals. This is not a new concept, we can look right back to the creation of the Tabernacle to see that God funds his church by his church. We see that all wealth belongs to our sovereign God.

Now that we have been in PNG for 3.5 years, we are seeing that some of our faithful supporters are no longer able to give as they did. This means that we will fall below our required funding target.

Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to give a small monthly donation to support the work that we are doing in PNG. You can do that by clicking the link below, or if you would rather, you can reply to this email and we can help you. www.maf-uk.org/sant

We purposely put this section last, because we deeply trust that God will raise up the support that we need without us needing to 'sell' the mission. Our priority has always been to get a group of people together that will support us in prayer - and that remains true. Please pray that God will continue to raise up people to support us financially.