

Duncalfes' Diaries

April 2018

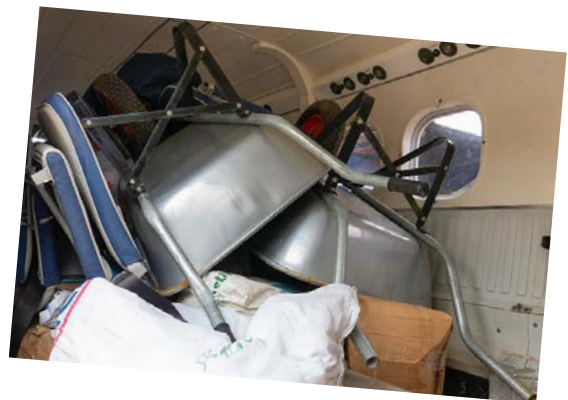
Here's a brief update to let you know some of the things that have happened in the three months since the last Diaries ...

January

Water pipes, water tanks and the kitchen sink, all for a rural health centre, were flown to Sengapi in the Bismarck-Schrader Ranges to the north of Mount Hagen.

A portable sawmill, wheelbarrows and other 'stuff' were manoeuvred into a Twin Otter and taken to Simbai for an agricultural project.

Medical supplies, in lots of cardboard boxes, were taken from Wewak on the north coast to Telefomin in the Star Mountains, roughly 200 miles to the south-west.



February

The first Mission Aviation Conference for several years was held at Ukarumpa, SIL's HQ in the Eastern Highlands.

Several missions use aircraft to support their work. As well as MAF and SIL, New Tribes and That They May Know mission were represented.

We all share much the same challenges and it was good to look at supporting each other and working together to find solutions.



March

Or more accurately, from February 26th. Did the 7.6 strength earthquake in PNG get sufficient media coverage in the UK to grab your attention? The American station CNN finally got on to the fact about 3 weeks after the event!

There were multiple strong aftershocks along with a lot of rain. Then on March 7th another major, 6.7 quake struck. Small landslides turned into massive ones with entire mountainsides collapsing and taking trees and tonnes and tonnes of earth into the rivers.

Fortunately the death toll was low due to the low population density around the epicentre, but thousands fled from outlying areas into communities close to airstrips.

It took a while for relief to get organised and MAF played a major role coordinating efforts, and subsequently flying food, drinking water, tarpaulins for shelter (and to collect rainwater) and other supplies into the affected areas.

Michael flew the first relief flight into the area just before we came home to the UK on March 10th. The devastation was incredible.

The initial immediate response is coming to an end, but the challenge now will be to ensure that reconstruction is coordinated and targeted on where it is most needed.



From the top: Valleys collapsed, in some cases blocking rivers and causing temporary lakes to form.

Whole mountainsides collapsed, taking thick forest into the rivers.

The first load of aid arrives at Huya and is unloaded, watched patiently by the community who occasionally broke into a gentle applause.

The hut was in use as a shelter for displaced people who had fled outlying villages to the airstrip community of Walagu. 80 people were sleeping here.



April to June and beyond

We're in the UK, visiting the team of people and churches who enable us to work for MAF. Our itinerary is in the table.

In June we will visit Andrew and his family in the States before returning to PNG at the end of the month.

Until November Michael will be Flight Operations Manager again while his successor is on home assignment until November.

Sun April 15th	Ashley Baptist Church, Hants. 10:30
Sun April 22nd	St George's, Deal. 10:30
Sun May 6th	St Lawrence's, Hungerford. 10:00
Sun May 6th	Ramsbury Fellowship, Hungerford. Evening. (Contact us for details)
Sun May 20th	All Saints, Macclesfield. 09:30
Sun May 27th	St Mark's, Keighley. 09:15 Keighley Shared Church. 10:45

April to June and beyond cont.

After the end of 2018 is still uncertain. We are looking at being back in the UK more from January 2019, but may still do a couple of short (not more than 3 month) tours during the year. Discussions are in process!

After more than 24 years in PNG we feel that it is time to spend more time in the UK, but the details of what we'll be doing aren't yet clear.

Philip & Tina's daughter, Rosalie, has been diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a rare condition that mostly affects girls. This naturally is a factor in our own plans.

Philip & Tina asked to put this in their own words:

Thank you for all your prayers throughout the years for us as a family. You may be aware we have recently had the diagnosis for our daughter Rosalie that she has Rett Syndrome. As we had not heard of Rett Syndrome ourselves, we are very keen to raise awareness and money for the charities that have already been very supportive to us as we work through what this means for us as a family.

Through this time there has been an amazing sense of God's peace and a knowledge that despite the hardships that will no doubt be a part of life, God has a clear purpose and plan for our daughter and that He will be glorified through her life.

We would welcome your prayers for strength in Rosalie's body, wisdom and patience as we learn to communicate with and care for our daughter.

Phil, Tina and Rosalie.

Praise & Prayer

- Give thanks for the role MAF has been able to play in providing relief to the earthquake victims.
- Please pray that this role will continue to be effective in coordinating reconstruction projects.
- Please keep us in your prayers as we consider our future.

Running for a Purpose

Michael has run regularly for many years. He's done the half-marathon distance a number of times, but never in an official race.

On May 7th he's running in the Milton Keynes half-marathon (Peter is doing the full marathon; Philip is also doing the half - quite a family affair!).

Michael thought it would be an opportunity to raise some money for some good causes! He's running for MAF and Reverse Rett.

Reverse Rett raises money for research with the hope of better treatment, and even possibly, an eventual cure.

If you'd like to be a sponsor, you can donate via a VirginMoneyGiving site:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MichaelDuncalfe> or contact us directly.

With thanks and best wishes

Michael
Nichi

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Newsletters: *News from the Duncalfes* Contact us if you would like to receive this or to be removed from the address list.

Duncalfes' Diaries: MAF-UK posts these for us in the UK. For information on how to support us, to notify a change of address, or to be added or removed from the mailing list, please contact MAF-UK.

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