

Duncalfes' Diaries

August 2018

We returned to PNG at the end of June. Here's a review of what we've been involved in since then:

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

During our church visits in the UK many people told us how moved they were by our account of the earthquakes in February and March. The immediate relief work has finished, but flights to help the communities recover continue.

On 10th August Michael, and First Officer Glenys Watson, flew 223 bags containing cooking utensils and other equipment to Huya. There were 266 to take in all, but they simply couldn't fit in the aircraft! The extra ones were taken on a subsequent flight.



RURAL EDUCATION 1

Building supplies for Kongrau Primary School were flown to Bank airstrip.

The school principal, Mr Roy, met the aircraft so that he could arrange for them to be carried to their final destination - a full day's trek through the mountains.



RURAL EDUCATION 2: Bad weather

Fog and cloud were around the airstrip when Michael and Glenys landed at Ambuluwa with supplies for the primary school. This was the last view of the mountains for nine hours! Just as they were expecting to spend the night in the community the clouds cleared enough to let them fly home to Mount Hagen with a full load of passengers.

RURAL EDUCATION 3

Volkher Jacobsen flew in PNG for many years and is now MAF International's Flight Training Manager based in Cairns. He is coming to help crew the Twin Otter during the second half of this year when we are short of captains. As Volkher hadn't flown the Otter for a few years Michael flew with him to get him familiar with the aircraft again.

One flight he and Michael did was to deliver food supplies to Kol, about 75km east of Mount Hagen, for the school there. Normally these are carried by road, but the road is impassable at the moment.

Fog at Mount Hagen delayed their return, and while they waited they talked with the local people. Volkher told them that his brother used to be a Lutheran missionary at Kol, and the pastor of his church in Cairns is also an ex-PNG Lutheran missionary. Many of the older people remembered both his brother and his pastor, and the link to the community brought smiles to the faces of many of them (as well as the two pilots!)



*Above: Volkher
Below: Teachers and students
with their supplies at Kol*

NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Yet more of those building materials that we keep on carrying were flown to Simbai, 70km north of Mount Hagen in the Schrader Ranges.

These were for St Lawrence's Anglican Church which is having a new building. The project is managed by British volunteer Tony Fry. He and his wife, Lyn, are helping at the vocational school in the community.



BIBLE SALES

There's still huge interest in buying bibles, especially the small Tok Pisin ones. On the 14th August Michael sold 30, and on the 24th another 37. How many book shops in the UK sell bibles that quickly?!



GETTING ORIENTED

Straight after returning to PNG at the end of June Nicki started two Tok Pisin/PNG orientation courses for some new arrivals.

In the morning she has worked with Satish Moka and Sonali Ghosh who are from India. Satish is a pilot, recently retired from the Indian Navy, and Sonali is our new HR Manager. They have two sons.

Our new Finance Manager, Fiona Stevenson, who's from the UK, has also joined in some of the course with Satish and Sonali. Due to the need for setting budgets for next year, she'll finish the course later.

In the afternoons the second course has been for Wilfred Knigge and his wife Harriette. They also have two sons, but a rather younger than Satish's and Sonali's.



Learning worship songs in Tok Pisin. Sonali, Satish and Nicki, helped by Doris Kelwau, who works in Flight Operations with Michael

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT



During August Peter, our third son, brought his wife, Gilly, and our two grandsons, Tim and Ben, to PNG for just over a week.

They are the last of our boys to bring their families over to see why their parents-in-law/grandparents are so weird. It was wonderful to have them here and to show them around the Hagen area.

Their trip ended with a couple of days by themselves in Madang, travelling there in a GA8, our smallest aircraft and, apart from Peter, their first time in a light plane. The weather was good and they had excellent views as they crossed the Waghi and Jimi Valleys, then the Ramu lowlands before reaching Madang 45 minutes later.



Tim & Ben in Granddad's aeroplane!

WHAT COMES NEXT?

We mentioned in the last Diaries that we're planning to complete our time with MAF PNG early in 2019.

Plans are gradually coming together and we're expecting to leave here towards the end of February. While we're still in the southern hemisphere we are looking at a prolonged journey home via the east coast of Australia, followed by visiting friends in North Island of New Zealand, and then exploring the southern half of South Island.

We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in July, so this trip will be a delayed celebration (other than a meal out on the actual day!).

It already feels strange to think that the time we've spent here, 25 years by the time we leave, is drawing to a close. Inevitably there is a strong sense of sadness, and the process of saying goodbye will not be easy. Nonetheless, we are at peace that this is the right decision and the correct timing.

What we do after this we still don't know. We remain open to all possibilities, whether occasional short trips back to PNG, or something entirely different. God knows!

PRAISE & PRAYER

- Give thanks for all the assistance that MAF has been able to provide to rural communities in recent months - the earthquake disaster relief, school building materials, new health centres, medical evacuations.
- Pray for wisdom as new aircraft are integrated into the fleet, for all the pilot training that is involved, and working out how the communities, churches, missions and projects MAF is involved with can best be served.
- Pray that the new pilots and other staff arriving in the next few months will adapt to PNG life and settle in quickly. Pray that a new person or new way of orienting them and teaching them Tok Pisin will be found once Nicki leaves.
- Please pray for us as we begin the process of packing up and saying our goodbyes over the next few months.

As always, our sincere thanks for your interest, prayers and support that enables us to work with MAF in PNG.

Michael

Nicki



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Monthly prayer update: News from the Duncalfes. Contact us if you'd like to receive this.

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