

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

By the middle of March aid was reaching the communities devastated by the earthquakes. In two weeks alone MAF flew 17 Twin Otter flights to the area; other organisations, including the Australian Air Force, did more.

Estimates are that about 140 people died, mercifully few considering the severity of the quake, but thousands have been displaced. Anton Lutz and Sally Lloyd, two very good friends of MAF, spent several weeks in the area conducting assessments of where aid was most needed and helping the communities wherever possible.

Then on Saturday 7th April there was another 6.3 earthquake, some further after-shocks and another 5.1 quake this morning (Monday 9th April). There are reports of further damage in Tari, the only major town in the area, but at the time of writing we haven't heard what has happened in the rural areas.

There has been civil unrest in Tari after the first two major quakes and the airport has been closed. This will obviously hinder any further response. All in all, it's not a good situation.

Following the immediate aid response, thoughts turn to reconstructing communities. Again, it is difficult to know exactly what is needed and where, and there is a risk that different organisations will work independently of each other at projects that interest them. People within MAF are trying to find out what is needed and where, and then to coordinate these projects.

Please pray:

1. For support and aid to reach communities that most need it.
2. For restraint of the people involved in fighting and taking advantage of the disruption the earthquakes have caused.
3. Pray that reconstruction projects are coordinated and effective.

PERSONAL NEWS

Itinerary

We've been back in the UK a month now and are greatly appreciating the opportunities we're having to catch up with people and churches who've been so important in our work for so many years. Our itinerary has one extra addition for May 20th:

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

Running for a reason

One extra item. I run regularly and thought it would be fun to do a proper half-marathon. I've done the distance before, but never at an organised event. Mostly they're held on Sundays, which doesn't fit in with

our schedule, but the Milton Keynes marathon and half-marathon are on the May Bank Holiday, May 7th. Peter is running the marathon, Philp and I will do the half, so it's a family affair!

Having decided to do it, the thought came, "Why not raise some sponsorship?". Soooo ... I'll be running for **ReverseRett**, the organisation that sponsors research into Rett Syndrome, that Rosalie, our oldest granddaughter, is affected by, and for **MAF** – which I don't need to say anything about!

If you'd like to be part of the fund-raising, you can do it through the following link or get in contact with us directly:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MichaelDuncalfe>

As always, thanks for your prayers and support.

With best wishes

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www.reverserett.org.uk