

We thought that it would be good to bring you up to date with some personal and MAF news before we head back to PNG in three weeks time. We'll do this as a series of short reports this time.

The Earthquake: The aftershocks have now mostly subsided but the most severely affected communities remain in need of assistance. MAF is continuing to fly supplies where they are needed, and to also assist with the reconstruction process.

Pilot numbers: At the moment we are down to only twelve pilots in PNG. Two experienced pilots have just left to return to their home countries after their children finished school. Another has moved to a different programme for a period of time. Then there are those on leave, ourselves included. Needless to say, it is difficult to fly a full programme without pilots. **Engineers** are also thin on the ground so one is coming to PNG from Mareeba to help during this month.

Fleet changes: Many of you will have heard by now that MAF PNG is changing to an all Cessna Caravan fleet. An amazing opportunity has come up to enable this to happen over a short time frame, rather than the very prolonged one usually associated with raising the large sums of money necessary to buy new aircraft. A lot of planning is in process to enable this to go ahead smoothly and to ensure that the necessary training can be completed.



On return: Brad Venter, who Michael handed over to, is now on leave. Michael will cover for him until he returns in November. Nicki will be involved in Tok Pisin and orientation training for some families who have arrived or who should arrive soon, including three new pilots.



A HUGE THANK YOU! to everybody who sponsored me for my Milton Keynes Half-Marathon. Over £800 was raised in total, shared between MAF and ReverseRett. It turned into more of an endurance test as the day was so hot, which meant that neither Peter (who ran the full marathon), nor I, ran as quickly as we hoped, but we both did it! We finished!

Church visits: We have really enjoyed catching up with so many friends and supporters, which was the primary purpose of our time in the UK. News of the PNG earthquake struck a strong chord with many folk, but it was interesting to see how few people had heard about it. The news that appears in our papers and on TV is very selective.

A holiday: Yes, in response to quite a few queries, we have had a holiday! We visited parts of the UK we were not familiar with: Nottinghamshire, North Yorkshire and the Welsh borders. The RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs provided spectacular scenery and beautiful views of the nesting birds, including puffins – a first for us.

We are also going to spend a week with Andrew and his family in Texas before we head back, so are very much looking forward to that.



PRAYER POINTS

There's plenty to give thanks for:

- the aid reaching earthquake-affected communities,
- the opportunity for MAF to purchase new Caravans for the PNG programme,
- the response to the marathon fund-raising, and our church visits.

Prayer topics:

- for the three new pilots and their families who come to PNG soon;
- for the plans to transition to an all-Caravan fleet;
- for ourselves as we prepare to return at the end of June.

Thanks for your prayers and support.

With best wishes

Michael

Nichi