

MAF NEWS

MAF PNG is getting six new Cessna C208 Caravans within the next 9 months or so. William Nicol, the MAFI Aviation Director, recently took delivery of the first three at the factory in the USA. They next go to another company for some modifications that aren't done by Cessna, and will be flown to Mareeba later this year for some final MAF modifications such as the installation of our satellite tracking system. The first of the three is planned to arrive in PNG either before the end of this year, or very early in January 2019.

Planning the training of our current pilots on the C208, as well as new pilots who have already arrived, or who arrive soon, is a logistical challenge.

The C208s we already have are opening up opportunities, especially in rural health care, that have never been possible before. Medical teams are being flown to very remote communities that have never had a doctor (and in the near future are also likely to see a dentist) before as part of an initiative by Dr David Mills at Kompiam.

A similar programme has already begun in the Sepik area in the north west of PNG.

Meanwhile, in Western Province another rural health care programme which is externally funded, but MAF operated, is under development.

This is all very exciting and a new aspect to MAF's ministry in PNG.

- Give thanks for the new aircraft coming to PNG. Pray that the modifications will all go smoothly and the aircraft will arrive in Australia, and then in PNG, in the planned timeframe.
- Pray for wisdom for Markus Bischoff in particular. As Crew Training Manager he is the person responsible for developing the training plan.

Our engineers have been very busy recently, including some major unscheduled maintenance with an engine on one of the Twin Otters, and also some persistent problems with one of the GA8 Airvans. Both these problems have been resolved in the last week and the aircraft are back in service.

- Give thanks for the engineers' dedication and commitment to excellence. Pray for the Lord to give them wisdom as they troubleshoot faults, and to sustain them with the long hours they sometimes have to work.

After training Volkher Jacobsen back on to the Twin Otter, mentioned in last month's news, Michael did the same for Greg Falland, another ex-MAF pilot who is coming back as a touring pilot to help us crew the Twin Otters.

Greg was based in Goroka when he flew with MAF, and some of this training was done in the Goroka area. It was lovely to see the faces of some of the community members when they saw Greg getting out of the aircraft and recognised their friend had returned.

- Give thanks that Greg's training has been completed and he is now up and running on the aircraft again.

PERSONAL NEWS

Peter & Gilly's visit was, as expected, very special. Having our grandchildren, Tim and Ben, with us was a delight.

Their travel was not uneventful due to a passport issue when they checked in at Heathrow. Fortunately this was resolved quickly, though not without stress, and they were only a day late arriving.



While unloading school building supplies at Simbari in the Eastern Highlands, coffee was brought for the return load. This woman carried several bags, each of 50kg or more – that's a hundredweight, 110lbs in old currency!

- Give thanks for their visit, and for the safe travel and the way prayers were answered as the passport problem was sorted out.

“That club up the road” is back in operation, with loud music blaring through the night. Even as I write, at 4:15 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, music is blaring out. We have to use ear plugs at night to block out the majority of the noise.

There’s also a screen and platform under construction on the sports ground opposite our house. Based on previous experience this is likely to be a church outreach of some kind, which is almost certainly going to be noisy.

- Continual noise gets very wearing, and it doesn’t make us very sympathetic to the good intentions of church activities! Please pray for the Lord to sustain us. Prayers for the resolution of the noise from the club will not only benefit us, but all the other residents nearby.

The back pain that Michael had cleared up after a visit to the doctor at New Tribes Mission while we were in Goroka. An anti-inflammatory injection around the sore ligament sorted it out very quickly. Thank you for your prayers as well.

Give thanks for prayers that have been answered. Some issues just need ongoing and persistent prayer, but the support and encouragement we gain from knowing that you are praying for us can never be overstated.

With best wishes in our Lord

Michael Nichi