

Happy New Year! We pray that you will know the Lord's peace and blessing through 2019

FOLLOW UP

Brian Walter has responded well to treatment so far, but the type of leukaemia he has is serious and will need prolonged treatment.

- Please continue to pray for Brian, Clay & Becky, Seth and Taylor

MAF NEWS

It's actually been a pretty tough month for MAF. There have been instances of prolonged unscheduled maintenance for some aircraft, a physical attack on two of our staff, some thefts from vehicles, lack of integrity with some employees and various sicknesses. When there's a run of issues like this the only thing to do is to pray.

- Please pray for the Lord's protection, and his empowering to continue doing his work, in his way and in his time.

Nicki has continued to work at documents to do with staff orientation and initial training, as well as plans for Tok Pisin courses for staff who arrive soon. Progress is being made but it is a big job and complicated by the fact that the hard drive on her computer has died.

- Please pray for Nicki that she will be able to complete everything before we go – 6 weeks today (13th Jan).

Michael has continued to do a reasonable amount of flying. One early morning flight landed at Gebrau, in the Schrader Ranges north of Mount Hagen, before 7:30 am. The stunning beauty from the village, looking out past mountain ranges and down to the Ramu Valley, covered with low morning clouds, never fails to impress, regardless of how many times you go there.



The backload was 1.75 tonnes of coffee →

Two flights were made to Mougolu and Huya, communities affected by the earthquakes in February and March last year. Gardens are still not producing adequately, so food and other aid is still required, though the issue seems to have dropped off the radar for many aid agencies.

Displaced people are beginning to clear forest and build new homes around the airstrip of Huya.

- Give thanks for the ministry of MAF to the remote communities. Pray for the Lord to work in the lives of these people, and that our work will be a good witness.

Just as Michael was looking forward to a quieter final few weeks, and his email inbox was beginning to show evidence of this, he was asked to cover as Operations Director for Doug Miles who was going on holiday. Fortunately, there are others who are sharing Doug's workload as it isn't possible to fly, work on projects and cover another more-than-fulltime job all at the same time!

- Pray for Doug and Yvonne to have a really good break and rest.
- Please pray for Michael and others in the team who are covering for him.

PERSONAL NEWS

Packing up and selling the belongings we're not bringing home continues. A couple of crates are already packed and closed; some others really only need padding to protect the contents. Almost everything we're not shipping has a new owner, even if we keep using the items until just before we leave. It all seems very strange, and not surprisingly, we're feeling torn in two.

It's only six weeks today (13th January) until we leave.

- Please pray for us as we go through this process.
- Please also pray that the administrative jobs that are part of shipping belongings back to the UK, and also transferring our residence back, go smoothly.

As part of our relocation process, we're planning to visit friends (mostly ex-MAF) in Australia and New Zealand, and also have a holiday in New Zealand en route. Well, perhaps it's not exactly en route, but it's a lot closer to PNG than trying to do the same thing from the UK!

- Please pray that all these plans come together well.

Our itinerary is as follows:

Cairns	24-27 Feb	Napier	8-11 Mar
Brisbane	27 Feb - 2 Mar	South Island	11-30 Mar
Auckland	2-5 Mar	Melbourne	30 Mar - 3 Apr
Tauranga	5-8 Mar	Heathrow	Arr 4 Apr

If not before we go, then hopefully not long after we arrive back in the UK, we'll be able to give you some news as to what our future may involve, and whether it includes MAF or is likely to be something different. This obviously will have particular implications for those of you who have so generously supported us financially for so long.

This is a good time to express our very deep and sincere thanks for being part of what the Lord is doing, and has done, in PNG, through MAF and through you and us together. We are very grateful to Him.

With our very best wishes and greetings for 2019

 

The verse on our prayer card is Psalm 115:1

Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.