



Feunekes Flightpath

Issue 16
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So much has happened since Christmas! We had a nice quiet Christmas together as family. That morning we made the family photo you see. Yup, it was a warm day! During dinner we had to turn off our fan otherwise our candles would blow out so it felt even hotter! All around our area church groups were baking pigs in the ground using very hot rocks and leaves. This is the Christmas tradition of the Dani tribe. The Dani tribe originates from around the city of Wamena up in the mountains. New Years eve was a fun night where we lit off a ton of fire-works along with our neighbours. The kids enjoyed sparklers and the kind of fire works that you can hold. (Yes, we were careful) The whole night long people were blowing off carbide bombs as well. The kids had four weeks of Christmas holidays during which we made a couple trips to the beach and one to Abe to visit KFC and Fun Zone and we hiked up to the lower waterfall on the mountain behind our house. We also made daily visits to the pool down the road. Boy, are we ever thankful for that pool! Towards the end of January, Ibu Rita's (our helper) husband died rather mysteriously. He was found dead by the side of the road beside his motorbike. This was a shock to everyone as he was quite young yet.



Erica went to visit the first day and experienced quite a different way of grieving than back home. The body was in the middle of the living room on a small mattress and covered up to the nose with sarongs. All around the edge of the room were people sitting quietly. Rita and her sister were by the body

the pastor spoke and all those present recited the Apostles Creed. Then the coffin was lowered into the grave, sprinkled with flower petals and immediately covered with soil. After that some wreaths were laid on the site by various people. Then everyone went home. According to the cultural traditions of Rita's husband's tribe, she was not allowed to bathe or change her clothes for three days following her husband's death. Then before she bathed, they cut her hair as well. Now for forty days she is not allowed to leave her house, cook, or work. And each night for those forty days, her husband's female relatives that live nearby and their children, eat supper and sleep the night in Rita's living room. This has been a very hard time for Rita. She is being told by her husband's family all the things she must do according to their tribal ways. She is also now solely responsible for her two girls too. However, God has given her strength to deal with all that has happened. Rita feels at peace and finds comfort in God's Word. However, through this experience we can see that many here still cling to their old ways regardless of the meaning or purpose. There is still a great need for teaching here about what it really means to be a Christian.

moaning and crying constantly. Rita was not really aware of anything going on around her. The next day the scene was the same and remained that way even during the funeral service that was held in front of the house. Then the coffin was closed and carried out to an ambulance. Erica and Joy, Rita's other employer, went to the grave site. There Rita continued to cry and moan while



Brynnie and her friend Rode, Ibu Rita's daughter.



We enjoyed a tropical Sinterklaas party with our kids the beginning of December.

Erica and Brynnie on the motorbike.



Dec 1st Marc turned 4! We had a party at the school play-

One of the local Christmas booths made especially to play loud Christmas music for hours on end sometimes even all night long!





Brynnie just being her cute self!



Feb 14th, Christiaan turned 8!

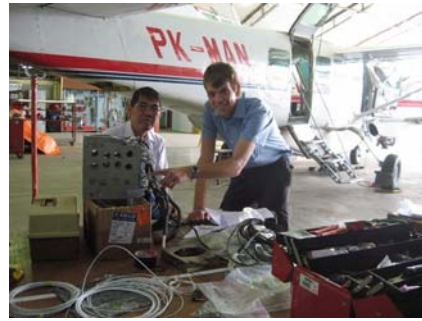


Marc enjoying a sparkler on New Years Eve.



Aidan informing the school on International Day that Canada has 2 official languages!

The kids of our church singing on the Christmas praise evening.



Hugo and Wesley working on MAN, the plane from Aceh that they are giving a complete avionics upgrade.

Christiaan holding a roman candle.



Another Sinterklaas photo. It was a hot day!

Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet made the long trip from Spain to come and see us in Sentani! Here he is checking up Mikah in his book.



Praise and Prayer:

- ◇ Praise for continued good health.
- ◇ Praise for all the support we've continued to receive!
- ◇ Pray for continued safety and good health. Particularly Brynnie's continuing skin problems.
- ◇ Prayer for building of good relationships with the locals especially those in our church.
- ◇ Prayer for wisdom and patience as there is always lots to deal with out here!

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To save \$, MAF is encouraging us to email our newsletters instead of using regular post. If you would like to receive our newsletters by email instead of snail mail, just drop us a line at: hfeunekes@maf.org

Thanks again for all your support!

*Hugo and Eriosa
Mikah, Christiaan, Aidan, Marc and Brynnie*