



Issue 18
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Feunekes Flightpath

Life just seems to whiz on by and now we are already in the month of September and the kids already have a month of school under their belts! We had a nice "summer" break. All our immediate neighbours were gone so it was really quiet. At first the kids weren't sure what to do with themselves but after a couple weeks they settled down and were having fun together. The highlight of our break was the MAF family conference at Pyramid, a village interior. We flew with Trigana (local airline) to Wamena, and from there we were shuttled to Pyramid by our dedicated MAF pilots. Pyramid is 5000 ft above sea level so it could get really cold there! It was a great week of fellowship, VBS, fun and games, and not having to cook or clean! Mikah and Erica joined a group that climbed the mountain and descended in a torrential downpour. We also had fun playing some soccer with the village kids. During that week we lived village-style. Electricity came from a generator, hot water came from fires lit under drums of water, and all our food was cooked on a wood-burning stove!

This past summer our Dutch churches celebrated 50 years of working in Papua.

Experience....

In September Erica had the opportunity to visit a school for the deaf and hard of hearing in Abe (City about a half hour's drive from Sentani). One of the national workers for MAF has an eleven-year-old son who just entered this school. Willem has never been to school before and does not have hearing aids and really has no hope to ever get them either. In this province of Indonesia, it doesn't really make a difference whether or not you are hard of hearing or deaf, there are no

Due to many factors, one being the difficulty in obtaining Visa's, there is only one Dutch couple working in Papua full-time. There are still some who come on a regular basis and help out the Reformed churches here with financial



Caravan to taking off in Pyramid.

matters and such.

Hugo continues to be busy in the hangar and radio shop. There's always something that needs to be fixed. Over the past number of months he has been installing new ELT's in all the aircraft as they come in for regular maintenance. In August one of our caravan's was involved in a hard landing damaging the tail and the elevator. This ended our five year accident-free streak. Thankfully, there were no injuries. At time of writ-

audiologists or hearing aids available. The school does have a few FM type devices with head phones which they use for speech therapy with kids who still have enough residual hearing to benefit from it. One of the teachers has been at the school for 22 of its 23 years of existence. In her opinion the school has advanced greatly since the beginning but it is still a far cry from what it could be. While we are glad that there is some help for the deaf and hard of hearing

ing, the plane is still out in the village where the accident occurred. The plan is to make it flyable and bring it to Sentani for full repair. It is quite a blow to our program to have one of our bigger aircraft out of commission. It is becoming increasingly difficult for MAF to obtain avgas for the Cessna 206 aircraft. The larger Caravan's use jet fuel which is readily available. Therefore we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new aircraft called the Kodiak which can carry more than a 206, but doesn't need a long take-off strip and it uses jet fuel.

Ritha is doing great. She is a woman of strong faith and is a good example for us all. Her husband's relatives who had wanted to take her children haven't said another word about it to this point. Ritha herself has returned to school and is studying to be a teacher of the Protestant religion. It is a three year program at a government-run school. Each morning at 8:00 she gets on a bus provided by the school and returns at about 1:00 on that same bus. This is a big thing for a widow with two children to do. However, Ritha is a woman of faith and would like to use her God-given talents to the furthering of His kingdom.

here, we are saddened by the primitiveness of that help. We would love to help out Willem and get him some aids. This would mean a trip to Jakarta where there is an audiology clinic that is reputable. If you feel moved to help out with this personal project, you can contact us at: hfeunekes@maf.org.



Willem

On the homefront...



Our three oldest kids started school in the middle of August. There were mixed feelings about it, but now they are all enjoying themselves. Mikah is becoming quite a tall young lady and looks older than her ten years. She loves school and does well. Another one of her friends is leaving so that makes her sad again. She takes good care of her new hamster Suzie. Christiaan is having fun in grade three. His equipment is functioning as it should for the most part and for this we are thankful. He also has a very helpful teacher! Aidan has really improved in his reading. For this year he is participating in a special reading program that is normally

two years in length. However, he is really doing well and could be done by the end of this school year! Marc is loving preschool but can hardly wait to go to the big kids school. He misses having lots of playtime with his friend Kaya who has entered kindergarten this year. He has made a new friend, a little boy who lives near us and goes to preschool with Marc. Brynne is her usual energetic self. Once a week she goes to a little playgroup/preschool where the main language used is Indonesian. She's very excited to be going to "school". Hugo still loves what he is doing here. This month he went to Wamena for a night to do an inspection for Helimis-

sion. He also loves to play hockey once or twice a week or volleyball if the opportunity arises.

Erica is still doing her housewife thing with a little hockey on the side. Every Saturday evening our church has Bible study and we are currently working our way through the book of Mark. It has proven to be a good time of learning and fellowship and we are beginning to feel more and more a part of things.

We and our neighbours took the opportunity to take our helpers to the beach one day. It was a really fun day and very special as they all got to snorkel for the first time in their lives.



Brynne on her third b-day.



Mikah and a friend in Pyramid.



Christiaan playing soccer with village kids.



Hot water heater village-style



Aidan at the waterfall.



Class at the school for the deaf and hard of hearing.



Marc.



With our guard and his family.

Praise and Prayer:

- ◇ Praise for continued good health.
- ◇ Praise for all the support we've continued to receive!
- ◇ Praise for the progress Aidan has made.
- ◇ Prayer that we receive funding for a 2nd term
- ◇ Prayer for wisdom and patience as there is always lots to deal with out here!
- ◇ Prayer for continued good health.
- ◇ Prayer for Mikah that she would find a good friend.

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Ritha and her girls.

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 Erica
Mikah, Christiaan, Aidan, Marc and Brynne*