



Feunekes Flightpath

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So you might think what does MAF do in Papua so long, they have been there for 50 years? Well in the 50 years, little in transportation has changed. Although there is a change in that 50 years ago planes were mainly used by missionaries and their families; and now these planes are being used to maintain the places where missionaries planted churches. Many flights are arranged for pastors to go from one village to the other to preach and teach, every year there are many synods, meetings, and conferences for churches that need MAF flights to move members. Every week there are medical emergencies like women with labor difficulties, children that have fallen out of trees, men that have been wounded by spear or arrow because of a quarrel, or people with malaria. In the 50 years that missionaries have

been working here, churches have been planted, villages, hospitals, schools have been built, but the transportation is still the same. And it is hard to get doctors

that go to the coast for schooling. Yes the missionaries started the many churches and the Papuans thank GOD for that, but they also say that they need now more and more transportation to and from the villages. They would like to see their villages more reachable so that their children can go to school there and people will stay because they are able to get what they need in the village.



There are also many Bible translators working in Papua that need to go to the interior or need supplies; and organizations are changing their mandate from bringing the Gospel to church maintenance and leadership training. There still is an incredible need for all this work, and we are blessed to be part of it. It is a joy and privilege to be part of an organization that is so essential to the ongoing functioning of GOD's work here in Papua.

and teachers to stay in areas where planes only come once a week. It is sad to see villages with a hospital and school, but MAF still needs to fly in to do a medical emergency because there is no doctor; or flies out children

Experience....

We have been here now a little over a year and are now starting to feel that we are members of the GGRI Efrata Sentani. Due to cultural differences and their respect for foreigners, it took a long time to show the members that we are here not to tell them what to do, but to support them. We are encouraged that they have begun to accommodate us and interact with us socially, as this makes us feel more like part of the congregation e.g. they changed Bible Study for us from 6pm Saturday every other week to 7pm Saturday every week. In the last couple of discussions the question arose - What does it mean to be Reformed? They asked Jan Wieske, a mission aid worker with our Dutch DVN, to explain what being Reformed is. So we decided to have once a month dis-

cussions on what it is to be Reformed. We who are born into a Reformed church don't know what it is not to be Reformed. But I thank the LORD that we have been raised with the Reformed faith and pray that we would be able to explain and discuss this with our fellow members. This way they can understand what it means to be faithful to our Lord and Saviour; and our bond is further strengthened by sharing a common history.

We as family have been really enjoying living here and at the same time see that there is a lot of work needed both to strengthen the churches in knowledge and faith, and to help the Papuans become more independent. Churches are planted and local evangelists go out

to the jungle to evangelize but they need our support for strengthening and up building of the church. The GGRI is a church 50 years young and have much to learn and grow. But this must be considered in context – how long did it take for the early churches to grow and be independent?

We thank everyone who has supported our ministry through prayer and finances. We feel GOD's hand and love in many ways. Though the challenges we experience living here are sometimes great and we are a great distance from family and friends, we have been richly blessed with the strength and desire to continue to work here and we covet your support and encouragement.



From the shop...

It has been about a year and a half since we arrived in Papua to begin our work with MAF. My job here consists of maintaining the aircraft, repairing avionics equipment, keeping tools and equipment calibrated (this is to make it legal to work on aircraft), repairing and managing the HF base radios, and any other electronic problems mission workers have. If I were not here to keep the avionics on the planes in good repair, they would not be able to fly. It continues to amaze us how GOD has prepared me for this Task. MAF became a certified aviation

shop a couple of years ago and has been struggling to have their avionics shop up to standard. In that way I really feel that the Lord has been training me for this work. In Canada I worked and was a manager for an aviation approved maintenance organization (AMO) that taught me how to run an avionics shop. And that was exactly what MAF Papua needed! MAF has been blessed with an Indonesian avionics technician that has been working with MAF for 30 years now. The problem is that although he has some background training, keep-

ing up with the technology hasn't happened – and this is exactly the type of skill I bring to Papua. When I started working in the avionics shop here in Sentani there was a lot of back log of work from the last 1-2 years. Apparently during those years the phrase “leave it till Hugo comes” was frequently used. I have been able to work through that back log, and in the meantime other work has come up, due to tighter regulations from the Indonesian government, that I am uniquely qualified to deal with.



Hugo in his office....



Pak Wesley who has worked for MAF for many years fixing radios.



A little girl who was medivaced by MAF after being burned when the family hut caught fire.



The caravan crew replacing some damaged engine



Fun night at the school!



Brynne and Rode on the tire swing.



Icelina



Friday nights at our house...

Praise and Prayer:

- ◇ Praise for continued good health.
- ◇ Praise for all the support we've continued to receive!
- ◇ Prayer that we receive funding for a 2nd term of ministry
- ◇ Prayer for wisdom and patience as there is always lots to deal with out here!
- ◇ Prayer for continued good health.
- ◇ Prayer that we would be able to help Willem, son of an MAF worker, get a hearing amplification device.

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Marc and Brynne with our pastor's wife and kids.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas as together we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour!
"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."
Ps. 136:1

*Hugo and Erica
Mikah, Christiana, Aidan, Marc and Brynne*