



A corner of lake Sentani as we came in to land.



Erica and Brynne at the Bakar Batu in Bokindini.

It has been a while since we've updated you all on our lives here in Papua. Christmas this past year was highlighted by a visit from Hugo's parents! So exciting for us to have people come to see us and to whom we can show how we live. We made the required beach trip where Mom Feunekes got to snorkel for the first time in her life. For Christmas we went to Bokindini, an interior village in the mountains. It is a beautiful place where the weather is rather

pleasant as well. We stayed in a hostel that is sometimes used as a dorm for American and Papuan students participating in the Eduventure program. There is also a university for Papuans there which focuses on discipleship, self-esteem and the teaching of practical skills. The schooling is all in English. We had the chance to speak English with some of the students while there.

Last year Hugo fixed a load controller for their hydro-electric system. This system was installed by MAF about 35 years ago! It now provides electricity to the entire village and the people from the school maintain it.

During our time in the village we were privileged to participate in a traditional pig feast. It is called a bakar (bake) batu (rock). A hole is

dug in the ground and lined with banana leaves and then hot rocks, veggies and meat are placed inside and then whole thing is closed up with more hot rocks and banana leaves upon which it is left for a half hour and then the food is ready! It is an all-day event that the people really love.

When we arrived home we saw that the guys had begun building our drinking water system for the public. Since then we have been providing drinking water to the folks that live around us. There are times when the "public" tap in the neighborhood is turned off and even when it is flowing, the water needs to be boiled prior to drinking and many cook with wood fires requiring many trips up to the mountain to collect wood.

Special points of interest:

- NATIONAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON APRIL 9TH
- ERICA HOPES TO GO TO CANADA IN MAY TO SEE HER BROTHER GET MARRIED.
- IN APRIL A LOCAL AIRLINE CRASHED IN WAMENA WHILE TRYING TO LAND IN FOGGY WEATHER. THANKFULLY THEY WERE ONLY CARRYING FUEL SO THE CASUALTIES WERE FEW.

Willem goes to Bali...

Last month, thanks to the hard work of some high school students from Vancouver and the generosity of some of our supporters, Willem and his Dad, Pak Ori (longtime MAF worker) were able to go to a school/clinic for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Bali. Willem had never had his hearing tested or seen a good ENT. Both

happened during their short stay there in Bali. It was determined that Willem has no canal on one side and the other side was plugged up with wax. Once the wax was removed they saw that there was a build up of fluid in the middle ear. So the next day they operated and put in a tube to drain the fluid. It was hoped that this

would eliminate all hearing loss in the ear but sadly there was some permanent damage. However, Willem was fitted with a pocket hearing aid and loves it and has begun speaking! He will most likely attend a regular school next year. Thanks again to all who helped out with this wonderful project!



Willem being checked out by the ENT.

The Feunekes Flightpath

From the Avionics Shop...



Hugo teaching the course on the electrical systems of aircraft.

After working with MAF for over 30 years, Pak Wesley has said good-bye to the MAF Avionics shop. He has been a tremendous help for MAF fixing avionics, radios and doing personnel for the entire MAF Papua program. Now we are down to one Indonesian in the shop. Hugo hopes to be able to further train Rudy in aircraft systems. Hugo has also been busy putting together a course about the electrical systems on aircraft. In the beginning

of April he taught this course to the guys that work in the hangar. The idea is to give them a better idea of how an airplane is put together electronically. Hugo has also begun installing traffic avoidance systems on the caravans. After a few "close" calls it was decided that this would be a good thing to have in the aircraft. Hugo also continues to install engine monitoring equipment in the Cessna 206. With this equipment MAF can save up

to \$70,000 a year on fuel. Due to the fact that fuel is very hard to get, this equipment enables us to do more with the fuel. The guys in the avionics shop are still very much involved with the base radio program. MAF arranges the purchasing of radios, licenses, solar panels, and batteries for the interior villages. They then maintain the radios which are the only means of communication in the interior. MAF provides this service for 400+ villages.



Strip opening in Pamek.

From the field....

The pilots that Hugo helps have the more "interesting" job so we thought we'd share some of what they've been doing.

to our guys to make the air drops.

Our pilots have also been opening new airstrips and inspecting strips in the process of being made. Some villages work on their strips for up to ten years before they are able to be used! So they have a big party when it does finally happen!

Our float plane has been put to good use helping two families living in the Korowai area of Papua. The people of this area have been the most reluctant to embrace the modern age and the Gospel. One family has been there for quite some time and another is just moving in and getting their home set up.



Bringing a freezer across the river. It had come on the float plane.

Last month 2 of our pilots were able to air drop much needed medicine to Missionaries interior serving in villages accessible only by helicopter. At that time the heli's were down and so it was up

The Kidz....

Our kids continue to thrive here. Mikah loves school and has a really great teacher. She is growing very tall very fast and turned 11 in March.

Aidan is about to turn 8 and is thrilled about it. He completed the special reading program in December and now studies reading and spelling with his classmates. But his favorite things to do are playing with Lego and Nintendo DS.

is also proving to be a great playmate for Brynnie. Marc also loves to play "electronics" especially "Age of Empires."



Mikah and her birthday trifle.

Christiaan turned 9 in February. He loves the social aspect of school along with the sports. In March Christiaan and Erica went to Singapore for the annual hearing test and new ear molds. All went well and many hamburgers were consumed in the process.

Marc turned 5 in December and is getting very excited about going to kindergarten next semester. He is showing interest in how letters come together to make words. He

Brynnie is growing up so fast. She is about the same height as Marc. She loves to rub and sniff the tags of her shirts. Each Wednesday a friend of hers comes to play and then on Thursdays she goes to the friend's house and it is the highlight of her week.

In the home...

Erica is kept busy around the house. There's always bread to be made along with other foods that need to be made from scratch. The list seems to be getting longer these days as the local stores are carrying less imported items.

Playing floor hockey twice a week is also a highlight. It is a time of fun, exercise and hanging out with some of the other ladies of the expat community.

Ritha continues to study to become a teacher of the Protestant Religion. She only works on Saturdays and on breaks between semesters. Erica is helping Ritha expand her knowledge of the English language. Ritha has been having problems with her mother who it appears suffers from a mental illness

which manifests itself in bizarre behaviour of a threatening nature.

Ice has also been struggling as of late due to some issues in her family. Her parents are divorced and her sister is also wanting to divorce her husband. Ice has a boyfriend and they would like to get married but his family is not wealthy enough to pay the price for a bride but only the price for "kawin" which essentially means they simply move in together. Ice would love to get married and not just move in with her guy.

Please pray for these two ladies as they each have their difficulties to deal with.

In the beginning of April we had the pleasure of hosting a Papuan student of a local program here run by "M's".

This program is designed to give Papuans the tools they need to succeed. These include, English, Math, discipleship and cooking etc... Each year the first year students spend a weekend at the home of a Western family to experience Western culture up close and personal and have the opportunity to practice their English.

We have been attending the Bible study from our church. It is supposed to be every Saturday evening; although that doesn't always happen. It has been a good time of teaching and learning for us. We have also begun studying the book of Romans on a weekly basis with an older Dutch couple working here with the ZGK. This has also been very spiritually rewarding for us.



The kids with their Lego airport.



Rode, Cina, Brynne and Ritha.

Praise and Prayer:

- Praise for continued good health.
- Praise for all the support we've continued to receive for our ministry!
- Praise that Willem was able to receive some good medical care and a hearing aid!
- 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.

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Brynnie and one of the girls from the Pelita Harapan school on the tire swing.



Enjoying a picnic lunch at the river.