



The Reformed Church in Waena.

As we write this letter we find ourselves already seeing that Christmas is approaching once again. Papuan folks love to make a big deal out of Christmas. By big deal, we mean lots of festivities. Around Dec 1st most churches have a party to “open” the Christmas season. Then when the day actually arrives there are more festivities. During the Christmas season music (some of a Christmas nature, some not) is played loudly from Christmas booths scattered around town. People take pride in the booths they’ve built and how loudly they can blast music from said booths. This music can go on 24 hours a day or some nicer booth owners may turn it off late at night. One can’t help but feel like the Christians here are taking advantage of this opportunity to make a lot of

noise such as our “cousins” do five times each day. There also seems to be a parallel with the “opening” of the Christmas season about 4 weeks prior to the date and the major Muslim holiday month of Ramadan which



ends with Eid ul-Fitr. Ideally, Christian’s shouldn’t feel as though they need to “compete” but it seems as though they do. And because Santa comes from what is considered a Christian country, it is also a part of Christian Christmas here. In most Western countries, even those that do not believe still celebrate Christmas

to some degree. Here it is celebrated only by those who believe.

Each year, at the beginning of December, the MAF national staff hosts a Christmas party. All the expat staff contribute financially and the national staff and the national staff runs the show. There is usually a small program and sermon and then the children of the national staff receive a gift followed by a meal all together. It is a fun evening of fellowship!

Over the past year we have experienced many challenges and triumphs. Through it all we have been blessed by our Heavenly Father and for that we are thankful. We are also looking forward to spending our first Christmas in Canada since 2005! The kids are very excited to experience snow and ice skating and to meet their cousins and other relatives.

## Special points of interest:

- WE ARE STILL EAGERLY AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW KODIAK.
- MARC LOST HIS FIRST TOOTH!
- WE ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SENTANI DEC 17TH, SPEND THE WEEKEND IN BANDUNG, AND THEN FLY TO CANADA ON THE 21ST.
- WE DO NOT HAVE A PRESENTATION SCHEDULE AS OF YET. WE’LL WORK THAT OUT ONCE WE ARE SETTLED INTO LIFE IN CANADA.
- WE WILL BE STAYING IN THE HOME OF ERICA’S AUNT AND UNCLE IN ABBOTSFORD DURING OUR HOME ASSIGNMENT.
- OUR ADDRESS THERE WILL BE: 33331 Lynn Ave Abbotsford, BC V2S 1E1
- IN SEPTEMBER WE CELEBRATED ONE YEAR OF ACCIDENT-FREE FLYING! A BLESSING FROM GOD!

## Merauke....

MAF has a 2 family base in the Southern city of Merauke. The plane flown by the 2 pilots there is the amphibious caravan. It is this plane that is used most often by our GGRI churches as they are located mostly in the southern half of the province. Just last month Tom Bolser, one of the

pilots, flew Jan and Dini Wi-eske (with the Dutch mission ZGK) to two different villages where Jan taught courses on preaching to the church elders. Dini had the opportunity to teach the local women some Bible stories and songs.

Our pilots in Merauke are also

often called upon to do medivac flights. For example, 2 months ago they flew a pregnant woman to the city as it was believed her baby was breech. She went on to have a c-section and delivered triplets! She most likely would have died had she stayed interior.



Pilots Tom and John



Christiaan.



Mikah participating in an assembly at school.



Marc and his buddy Stephan playing Nintendo.



Aidan.



Brynnie on her birthday.

## The Feunekes Flightpath

### From the Avionics Shop...

The avionics shop continues to be a place where many people from the interior come to ask about their radios or have question regarding buying radios or electrical solar panels. Rudy, our national employee keeps busy with fixing radios, and the fabrication of new radio systems. These radio systems consist of a radio, antenna, battery, and solar panel.

Before we send the system interior we modify the radios and solar panel to prevent the units from being hooked up improperly. Before, we had many radios or batteries coming back that were damaged by hooking up the radio or battery incorrectly. When I found this out we started to modify the radios with a simple device to prevent this from happening.

MAF provides radio communication for about 400 interior villages. These villages use the radios to communicate with each other and ask

for flight requests. Many emergencies would be fatalities if the people did not have the radio to ask for help. The radio is also used as an evangelism tool and evangelists use them to support each other and to discuss things.

The problem that now occurs is that the radio waves are getting too busy and thus communication becomes difficult again. A project I hope to do during and after furlough is to research and work on a better communications system that is affordable and durable in the interior. Further, some of the leaders of the churches have asked me to give courses on how to properly operate the radios and electrical equipment. They have also asked to learn how to troubleshoot the system. This will be on my to-do list when we return from home assignment.

The last months have been busy and the training courses for the nationals have been put on a low burner. Although I

continue to do training with the national avionics shop helper, it has become more clear what kind of training I will have to give when returning from Canada. Another item on my to-do list is to make an avionics training syllabus for the nationals.

Aviation technology has changed very quickly and become more high tech, meaning that I will also need to upgrade. In addition, the shop equipment and tools need to be adjusted to meet the new requirements. With the new aircraft coming, at the time of writing it should arrive Nov 17th, we will have some new tools and equipment too. This is very exciting for MAF Papua. The new aircraft means more readily available fuel and more cargo capability. We are praying that the new avionics will keep up in the environment of Papua and that the aircraft will serve the People of Papua as intended.

### The Kidz....

Mikah continues to excel playing the piano and saxophone. She still loves school and is currently working on her first major research paper on Martin Luther. She is also on the middle school soccer team and has two practices and one game each week. At time of writing, Mikah has been sick with a cough and fevers for about 6 days. She is really sick of being at home and not at school!

Christiaan is still enjoying school. He is having "fun" learning his times tables.

Two of his favourite things to do are play tetherball and dodgeball/handball during recess. There are a number of boys up on our hill all around the ages of Christiaan and Aidan and they really enjoy hanging out together once the homework has been done.

Aidan just did a book report on Jackie Robinson. He, with some help from various family members, also made a puppet of Jackie Robinson. Aidan also loves to play tetherball and dodgeball/handball during recess.

Marc is eagerly awaiting the day that he can begin kindergarten. He's getting rather bored being at home every day. His two best friends are in grade one already.

Brynnie had the pleasure of turning four in September. We had a fun party for her with her preschool friends. She is quite proud to be going to "school" with her Dora backpack and princess water bottle. There are quite a few girls her age here so she has no shortage of friends.

## Happenings on the hill...

Again, there have been many happenings up on our hill. Most of them of an unhappy nature. Many days there are inebriated men hanging out at a pondok (shelter) just down the road from our house. Sometimes they are too busy with each other, but other times they will venture into the road and stop traffic. One must be careful to keep all doors locked and windows rolled up and be at the ready to zoom away at the first opportunity. Erica has the art down to a science but each time it happens it still leaves her heart pounding.

Ice seems to have recovered completely. She and her husband have gone through a bit of a rough time. Over a year ago a guy had raped Ice; before she was married to hubby. This fellow came back recently to make restitution in the form of a pig and 2.6 million rupiah. Tradition-

ally the payment is given to the male relatives on the mothers side. However, Ice's dad decided that they would keep the pig for themselves. Ice's mom's relatives disagreed and stole the pig and there was an ensuing kaffuffle.

Ritha has been experiencing more heartache as of late. The biological mother of her older daughter suddenly showed up one day ready to take Awi back to where she lives on the other side of the island. The family met and decided that she could take Awi. However, when she went to Awi's school to have her released, the principal would not release her until the end of the semester even when the mother offered a bribe. It is unheard of that someone would turn down a bribe here. An answer to prayer! So the mother returned home saying she

would come back once the semester was completed. Please remember Ritha, a Godly woman and her family in your prayers.

Ritha continues to excel in her studies. She has the second-highest GPA in her class. Many of the teachers and students are from another island and have a hard time believing that a Papuan woman could be so smart! This leaves Ritha often having to prove her papers after getting a good mark.

Ritha's sister Violetta has begun studying English at a school run by another of the Christian organizations working here. Each week she comes to our house and Erica helps her with her homework. English is a tough language! One of our guards is also studying English at a local college and occasionally seeks help from Erica.



Brynne and Eleah.



Canadian thanksgiving barbeque potluck.



Hugo and Erica

### Praise and Prayer:

- Praise for continued good health and safety.
- Praise for a home and a vehicle to use during furlough.
- Praise for the support we've received to be able to come back for a second term.
- Prayer for wisdom and patience as there is always lots to deal with out here!
- Prayer as we prepare to furlough in December. There is much to do to prepare!
- Prayer for safe travels.

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Our guard Yokben and his wife Mere.

## The Feunekes Flightpath

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### All in a Day's work for an MAF pilot....

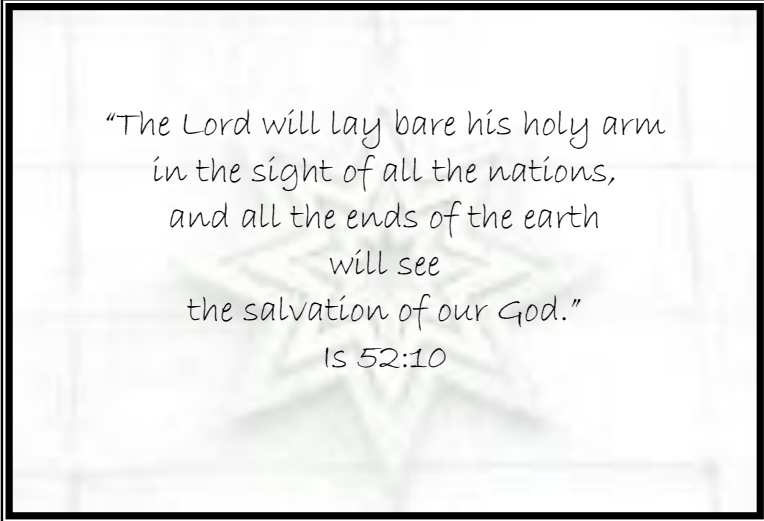
Sometimes our pilots are called on to carry unusual loads or make airdrops of necessary supplies into areas inaccessible by plane. Last September one of our pilots, Kevin, was called on to airdrop formula into a remote village that has begun making an airstrip but has not yet been completed. There are some missionaries working in this village who requested the airdrop for a little starving baby boy. Kevin was able to drop the formula right in the middle of the uncompleted strip and the boy is making a great recovery, as is his mother.

Sometimes our pilots encounter unpleasant situations during the course of their day. One of our pilots flew a couple who had worked at an interior village for many years and hadn't been back since the mid-1990's. They, along with another missionary, wanted to speak to the people of this village. As it happens, this village is the headquarters of a group of people that has split from one of the churches here and formed a new "church" that has more political motives (free Papua) than Biblical. Immediately upon landing, the plane was surrounded by an angry

mob of villagers threatening to burn the plane and do other harm should the occupants get out. The pilot made a quick decision to leave immediately. It was a very sad day for those dedicated missionary folks who just wanted to visit their old village again.

Last month one of our pilots picked up a very sick man from a village interior but sadly, 20 minutes from landing in the city, the man died. For many villages, MAF is the only way to get to any sort of hospital.

There have been a lot of plane crashes on the island. This is due to the increase in air traffic and due to a lack of proper emergency training. MAF has strict rules regarding where and when a pilot can fly through clouds. Many of the local carriers do not have such rules or if they do, are often ignored by overconfident pilots. Our pilots are always willing to help out in the search for missing planes. It is another opportunity to show Christian love and charity.



"The Lord will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth  
will see  
the salvation of our God."  
Is 52:10

We want to thank you for your  
support this past year and  
wish you all a blessed Christmas!

Aidan

Mikah

Christiaan

MAFC

Brynne

Enca

Hugo