THE ART OF SAYING, “YES”

Have you ever found yourself saying, “No”, simply because it’s the easiest answer? Saying, “Yes”, will mean a bit more effort, a bit more time, and probably asking somebody for their help.

Perhaps these were behind an initial response to Susie Childers, a photographer who has worked for Youth With A Mission for nineteen years documenting their work.

Susie, and two photography students working with her, Judith Recknagel and Emylee Bogart, needed to travel from Mount Hagen to Mapodo 270km/166 miles to the south west, in order to meet up with the YWAM ship working along PNG’s southern coast. YWAM teams were working in local communities providing health care, education services and sending outreach teams to work with local churches.

Doris Kelwau, Michael’s assistant in Flight Operations, was concerned that Susie had been told we didn’t have a flight when they need to travel and told Michael about it.

We both met Susie and the girls at the YWAM base just outside of Mount Hagen on a Saturday morning. On Monday, a few discussions and phone calls took place and what had seemed impossible, came together very easily. Susie, Judith and Emylee travelled to Mapodo the next day, and were brought back eight days later to connect with their flight taking them home to the States.

The STRATEGIC PLANS for both MAF International and MAF PNG were published recently.

These assess our ministry priorities and will guide our mission focus, including things like what aircraft types we use and where they’ll be based, for the next five years.
INTERNATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE

The annual conference was held over the weekend before Easter. It's an important opportunity to catch up with each other, learn what's going on in the wider MAF world, and also to have spiritual input, this time from South African speaker, John Benn.

Including those helping with the children's and young people's programmes over a hundred of us stayed in the large SIL training facility at Ukarumpa.

As you can see, this is just the international contingent of MAF PNG. With all our national co-workers and their families there would be over twice as many people again.

CORK IN THE BOTTLE

Too often Michael finds he cannot get on with long-term projects because of the day-to-day issues that need dealing with.

He's in the process of delegating these to teams of pilots, as much as possible to those who have a vested interest in getting them done!

The first to get underway is a review of the C208 Caravan performance in the PNG environment, with the intention of making much more use of its performance capability than we have up to now.

DROUGHT RELIEF

The drought generated by El Nino has been over for several months. Throughout the highlands gardens seem to be producing again, but in Western Province Sally Lloyd, daughter of pioneer missionaries Tom & Salome Hoey, has documented great hardship and hunger.

At long last food aid in the form of bags of rice is reaching these communities.

In the highlands, where MAF has done most of its relief flying, although gardens are producing again, the appreciation of having rice to supplement their diet is very real.

NEXT UK VISIT

We're in the UK again between Aug 8th and Oct 7th.

If you’d like us to visit your church, we’re free for the Sundays between Aug 14th and Sep 18th.

With only six Sundays, time is limited but we’re very happy to fit in mid-week meetings – which generally allow more time for discussion than Sundays usually do.

Let us know as soon as possible and we’ll do our best to fit in a visit. If you can suggest more than one possible date, that will be helpful.
FAMILY NEWS

After four sons and four grandsons, we have a grand-daughter! Rosalie Grace was born to Philip & Tina on January 18th.

We were in the UK over Christmas and the New Year and so were able to meet her while she was still very much newborn.

Nicki stayed on a bit longer to help Tina and Philip adjust to having a new little person in their family.

PRAISE & PRAYER

• Give thanks with us, and of course, Philip & Tina, for little Rosalie.

• Also give thanks that the drought has lifted and that it wasn’t generally so severe or prolonged as in 1997. Pray that food crops will produce quickly, especially in the hardest hit areas of the lowlands.

• Give thanks for some new pilots and new engineers: Ryan Cole and Dave Rogers have joined the flight team, and Raymond Chee, Clay Walter and Tom Meeks (the new Engineering Manager) the engineering team. Please keep them all in your prayers.

• Pray also for Nicki as she runs her second orientation course in quick succession. Immediately after completing the course with Ryan and the Meeks family, she started another with Dave & Allegra Rogers.

• Please pray for the Lord to guide us as we plan church visits. We haven’t been able to do much in the way of church visits during our last two times in the UK so we want to use this visit as effectively as possible.

As always we remain very thankful for your ongoing prayers, encouragement and financial support for our work with MAF.

With our best wishes

Michael Nicki