



## FIONA'S NEWS June 2021



“Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.” Psalm 40v5

I begin with an apology for a typo in this quarter's MAF UK prayer diary. Many of you have been supporting me in prayer and other ways since the start of my service with MAF, or shortly after my arrival in Cairns, which is actually for a full 13 years now. This gives me the opportunity to say that I am very grateful for this faithfulness and for the love that you all continue to show me – and also for the providence of God which is apparent in even a brief review of those years.

My first appointment was as finance manager of the Arnhem Land programme but based in Cairns. As I started the long journey to Australia, I met Professor & Mrs Dunn in Newcastle airport (lecturer on the New Testament when I was studying Theology at Durham University), found someone else I knew on the first flight and even bumped into another acquaintance in Dubai airport – thanks to at least one of you praying for an easing of the transition to Australia.

In Cairns, I soon found a home at The Good Shepherd Anglican church. The friendship and practical support that I have received from people there over the years has been truly wonderful, including the use of homes and cars whenever my work has taken me back.



Arnhem Land is a remote part of the Northern Territory and Elcho Island is an even more remote spot off the coast. Yet even there I found connections, meeting a MAF family who knew the relative whose estate I'm now administering.

Work in Papua New Guinea was quickly added to the Arnhem Land work, until Geoff came forward to be the PNG finance manager. God's timing in then bringing Andrew to replace me as regional accountant in the Cairns office meant that MAF was able to use me to help implement the same accounting software across the Asia-Pacific region as was already in use in Africa region. It's so good to look back and see God's working at each stage of the way – it was only because I had had experience of such a project in my pre-MAF job that I was able to take on this task.

My father died within months of my arrival in Cairns so a couple of years later it seemed right to move closer to my mother – which first involved a year in Uganda (which is much closer to England than Australia is!). Again God was before me. Having some years earlier met Joan Hall at St Nic's in Durham and then visited her in Uganda, I knew how to manage the coeliac diet there. Sam Tsapwe collected me from the airport on that first trip to Uganda. Since his work with the Jesus Film ministry is supported by MAF, I met him again - a humble man, passionate about sharing the hope and joy to be found in knowing Christ.



My location in Uganda meant that when the Tanzania finance manager needed to spend an extended time in England for family reasons, I was able to make regular trips to Dodoma to cover for him. This in turn became relevant after I had moved back to the UK and joined the Ashford office. The role continually evolved but one of my tasks was as part of the team restructuring the Tanzania programme to enable viable ministry work to continue there.

As most of you know, the 5 years based in Ashford involved increasing amounts of travel, to the 4 programmes in East Africa (Kenya, S Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), to Chad and Bangladesh, to PNG and Cairns. At intervals, several of those countries experienced security challenges such as terrorist attacks on a shopping centre in Nairobi and Dhaka and a suicide bomb attack on a police station in

N'Djamena, but never when I was in country. South Sudan, too, had only an uneasy peace after civil war on mainly Dinka/Nuer tribal lines. Through all of that and all the thousands of miles of travel, I have been kept safe and well. I did trip and fall in Juba leading to very colourful bruising and a concern about a possible broken bone – problematic in a country with very limited health facilities – but a doctor was found who decided a fracture was unlikely and advised I could fly back to Kampala, where an x-ray confirmed that all was well. Travel documents have always come through at the required time, with the PNG High Commission once turning the paperwork round in a couple of days before Christmas rather than the 2-3 weeks that might have been expected at that time of year.

With the move to PNG as finance manager came the requirement to increase the level of prayer and financial support, and the need to sell the house in Kent for Mother to move closer to other relatives. The property transactions were completed just a week before I came to PNG and regular financial support reached the target on the day I left England.



And now Fraser is here and picking things up quickly, Jeroen should be arriving in August or September (who will effectively take my place, but based at Kompiam, and coming with excellent IT skills as well as accountancy) and we hope that Natasha from the UK will reach MAF Technologies (CRMF) before the end of the year. Natasha's broad assignment will include local oversight of that finance department, giving it a welcome boost. Things can change, but it looks as though PNG will be well-equipped with accounting staff by the time I am due to finish here next year.

Through all these years, MAF has been serving with you and with Christians in NGOs and local churches to bring help, hope and healing through aviation as we seek to see isolated people changed through the love of Christ in all the countries in which we operate.

In PNG, two teenage boys have recently received healing because of MAF. The first was from a village with no means of contacting the outside world. MAF's routine flight to collect equipment at the end of a health patrol for Kompiam hospital meant that he was able to fly to hospital for treatment of severe fractures and loss of blood. The other, suffering from acute appendicitis, was found on the first aerial health patrol that MAF flew for Lutheran Health Services in Morobe province. He was taken back with them for surgery at Etep Rural Hospital.

In April, a church evangelistic event at Tumolbil near the Indonesian border attracted a large number of young people. Now they are keen to purchase Bibles supplied via MAF Technologies and flown out by MAF PNG.

I hope that you can see that your prayers and support really do make a difference – to me, to MAF and, ultimately, to the people we are here to serve. God bless you and to Him be the glory.

- Praise God for his faithfulness in all the details of our lives and especially in the outworking of my assignments with MAF.
- Pray for our work in PNG and elsewhere that our actions may clearly point to Christ's love which is the motivation behind the flights to serve remote communities.
- Thank God that it is now possible to receive covid-19 vaccinations in PNG (I should soon have my second injection) and pray that the spread of the disease may be contained.
- Praise God that Fraser and his family have arrived in PNG and are settling in and pray for Fraser starting to learn all that his job entails.
- I have grown rather tired so please continue to pray for strength and stamina and for my spiritual health, and that it may be possible to visit the UK in the autumn.

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Please let me or MAF know if you no longer want to receive this prayer letter or would like it in a different format (post or email) and let us know if you would also like to receive the briefer prayer letter without pictures that I send in the interim months.

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