



NEWS FROM NORBS ABROAD

WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/NORBURY

November 2022



Hello everybody!

TRACY WRITES...

We are so grateful that the simple delights of Christmas (mince pie, anyone?) are just around the corner. This update is probably the least cheerful one since our MAF adventure began three years ago so it's good that there are festivities on the horizon!!

Last time we wrote we described our first trip out of PNG and some of the challenges that faced us when we returned. These included a broken toe, three weeks of family flu, serious civil unrest in a nearby town and the worst earthquake that Mount Hagen has had in about a decade - the resulting damage to the national internet network hamstrung mine and Fraser's efforts at work - and a plethora of smaller concerns and frustrations.

For me it feels as though the more Tok Pisin I learn to understand and speak, the more clueless I see that I am about PNG languages and cultures. The realisation has recently dawned that, since returning from our Australian holiday, we have all been battling culture stress.

As ever though, all is not lost! Culture stress is an integral part of seeking to engage with a new culture and we really

Culture stress is...

'...the stress that occurs when you change to a different way of living in a new culture. It is what you experience as you move beyond understanding the culture to making it your own so that you accept local customs, becoming comfortable and at home with them.'

Symptoms include:

- Feelings of anxiety, confusion, disorientation and helplessness
- Fatigue, lack of motivation, lethargy
- Illness
- Disappointment, discouragement
- Anger, irritability
- Rejection of the host culture
- Homesickness

(Quoted from www.crossculturalworkers.com)

Thankfully we have not experienced all of these symptoms at once and we have amazing friends and family around us to help us through it, praise the Lord!

are giving that our best shot! We are hugely grateful for the understanding of our PNG friends and colleagues who are helping to 'translate' PNG attitudes to us. This includes making the occasional 'meri blaus' (dress) and 'bilum' (woven bag) for me and thoroughly loving our children.

We also have the friendship and support of our fellow international MAFers who have been through similar stress themselves. The ladies here know the crucial importance of good tea, good chat, baked goods and listening ears.

Most importantly, we are still so grateful for the way that our Heavenly Father firmly prodded us here in the first place. He continues to prod us to love Him and serve Him and do what we can to reflect His cosmos-rejuvenating loveliness back to the people we encounter here each day.

FRASER WRITES...

I've been coming to grips with the new normal. It has taken me a while to realise this is it. Some of it is fantastic, the work MAF does, the colleagues, the people of PNG. All these make me so happy.

Other parts are tough. We often find ourselves moving from one work emergency to another with no breathing space in between. There is also the backdrop of security concerns and less comfort than back home which can leave a lingering hum of tension.

What is utterly amazing is being able to walk in the office each morning knowing that despite whatever is going on, we are part of a team that is life changing for people here in PNG. It is a great motivator.

If you are a person who prays we would love it if you could take a look at our prayer update on the right.

Our next newsletter is due out in January and will include all the Christmas pictures we can possibly fit in! To find out what is going on with us in the meantime please do look up 'Norbs Abroad' on YouTube and Facebook or email us.

There's absolutely no way we could do this without you!

With love and big grins from

Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Primrose

PRAYER UPDATE

Last time we asked you to pray for Oliver and Rosie particularly. Praise the Lord with us for these answers to your prayers:

Rosie is now looking forward to moving up to the Grade1/2 class at her school. Oliver has done an excellent job of reassuring her about taking this big step out of the Early Years building and into the main school campus.

Oliver has been sickness- and boil-free since we last wrote, wahoooo! He's also really enjoying his 'Diary of a Disciple' (a retelling of the gospel of Luke) thanks to the accompanying puzzle book that an Auntie sent him for his birthday.

We'd also really appreciate it if you could pray for **Fraser and Tracy**. They are heading off to the MAF base at Telefomin for a week before Christmas. This is so that Fraser can familiarise himself with the staff and finance-related conditions there and so that Tracy can conduct some staff training.

The kids are going along too so that the whole family can enjoy a break from the noise and recent civil tensions of Mount Hagen city.

Please pray that this is a peaceful, restful and constructive time for the whole family and for Fraser and Tracy in particular.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

One way we've used our 'down time' is by bashing nails into plywood and then wrapping string around the nails...



By Rosie

By Fraser and Tracy

By Oliver

It was a team effort from start to finish.



...and another way involved acting out a book called 'George's Marvellous Medicine'!



The big shops in Mount Hagen are competing to 'out-inflate' each other again this Christmas. This is one of the smaller decorations on view!



Sports Day was a brilliant!



...and Yellow House won, hurrah!



Merry Christmas Everybody!