



NEWS FROM NORBS ABROAD

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January 2024



Happy New Year!

TRACY WRITES...

Well, I've just given a big sigh of contentment as I've reflected on the past few weeks. It seems to me like the Lord has been answering my prayers for my children while also surprising me with His kindness towards myself.

This time last year I was desperate for the two-month-long Christmas holiday to end. There were no kids in MAF near Rosie's age and all those we knew were battling the same boredom that dominated our household. I was concerned that my children were not keeping up with the UK school curriculum and felt like I'd totally exhausted myself trying to create an exciting January 'homeschool' for them from scratch while also maintaining my work role at MAF HQ.

What a difference a year makes! There are now two other little girls in MAF, one of whom will be in starting in Rosie's class next week. Currently they speak very little English (they come from Denmark) but they are ace den-builders and lego-engineers (which is far more important). Also, we've had what's felt like a month of rolling playdates with school friends and MAF kids and I've had the satisfaction of not seeing my children for hours at a time while they play at

News headlines

- **PRIMROSE, QUEEN OF PLIES:** Rosie has begun ballet lessons under the tutelage of our most multi-talented of MAF pilots, Bridget. Go, girls!
- **TAX CODE CATASTROPHE:** January saw rioting and looting induced by the police and army going on strike in protest at a 'glitch' in their tax deductions. 16 people were killed in 3 cities. Mount Hagen was tense but quiet due to proactive policing.
- **BUMPER BANANA BOUNTY BLOATS BELLIES:** Three of the banana trees in our compound 'kamap redi' at the same time (see final page). Many pancakes were had by all.
- **FIGHT AND FLIGHT FOR FINANCE-MAN FRASER:** Dire internet services drove Fraser to board a plane for Australia in order to work on the annual finance audit. He continued to 'faitim keyboard' while he was there but was no longer compelled to tear his (remaining) hair out.

home with friends, only emerging for food! There is one particular family from school (a boy and two girls) who come for sleepovers, pancakes, Lego trade deals and bounce battles on the trampoline. I had the joy of telling their mum this morning that her kids are a direct answer to my exasperated prayers a year ago.

While we were in the UK over the summer, I bought some UK English and Maths workbooks which Oliver and Rosie have slogged through over the past four weeks. This has been very reassuring for me (they seem to be on track academically, praise God!) and boring enough for the kids to make them look forward to the start of term...

I've also just started hosting a weekly ladies' bible study led by another MAF lady. It has been an absolute game-changer for me in terms of my 'inner life' (anybody else feel like their head is a bit of a carousel most of the time?) and a wonderful way to connect with and learn from a range of missionary ladies. God is real and He REALLY loves us.

FRASER WRITES...

I'm loving working in Cairns, Australia, but missing the family. It's incredible what you can get done when the internet works decently! It's amazing how much joy doing your job as you've been trained to do it can bring when you're not also fighting peripheral issues.

I'm also enjoying traffic lights that work, well-built roads, a church that I find culturally comfortable, and renewing relationships with the colleagues I normally only see in 2D!

I absolutely love working for MAF. Check out this link for stories about the work we do:

<https://papuanewguinea.mafint.org/>

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

Thank you for journeying with us as a family prayerfully, financially and lovingly. We're looking forward to sharing more stories next time about what MAF and the Lord are up to here in PNG.

With love and big grins from

Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Primrose

PRAYER UPDATE

Last time we asked you to pray for:

- **Oliver and Rosie:** Both seem to be getting stuck into their Bibles and Oliver really enjoys going to a Kids Bible Club once a fortnight. Rosie has some very big questions about God!
- **For the recruitment of a new Country Director for MAF PNG** – we're still waiting for this person.
- **For the MAF PNG family** – it's heartening to see how the MAF family continues to pull together in the same direction, particularly the Leadership Team. Please continue to pray for wisdom and revelation for them.

This time we'd also love it if you could pray for:

- **Fraser** as he juggles his internet-based frustrations with changes in his finance team and the sense that his professional/ministry life is like running up an escalator that's travelling downwards
- **Fraser's new team member, Patience**, who is preparing to head out to PNG from the UK on an initial short-term contract. Pray for her to have a smooth transition which enables her to 'hit the ground running' in sharing her considerable wisdom and talents with the finance team.
- **For Tracy and the kids** as they return to term-time routines; that they would join in more and more with what our Heavenly Father is doing here in Mount Hagen.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The school end-of-year celebration saw both kids gain awards (presented by their father, a school governor) and Rosie reprised the role of Mary in the nativity.



Christmas again had many lovelinesses but we miss family and friends more and more at this time of year as the years roll by. However, we found Santa in his grotto, remembered how surreal it is having Christmas in a warm climate, and were sent some beautiful reminders of our forest home, thank you friends!



We also got to spend some time in our 'happy place' at the headwaters of the Tuman river. Our friends there surprised us with a beautiful blessing: a baby girl called Tracy.



Going bananas and going back to school!

