



# THE BROWNS IN ARNHEM LAND

CHRISTMAS 2023



## Family News

Merry Christmas everyone, it is so great to be writing you all and we want to thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Christmas in Arnhem Land is during what is locally known as the 'build up'. From about the beginning of October the temperature and humidity level slowly builds until the start of the 'wet' when the rainy season begins. Being outside at the moment is a hot and sweaty affair and the thought of a white Christmas is a long way off. This is the first time we have longed for home, the thought of being surrounded by family and enjoying all the 'wintery' Christmas activities that we so enjoyed in the UK make the 8000 miles between us and the UK seem very real.

However, we have much to be thankful for and our big news is that we are expecting baby number 3! It is still early days and they are due in July, but we are really excited and feel incredibly blessed. Our intention is to have the baby in Arnhem Land and your prayers for good health, for mum and baby, would be really appreciated.



Since we  
arrived in April

MAF has flown over  
9900 PASSENGERS

Conducted  
OVER 440 MEDEVACS

Evacuated  
65 WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN FROM  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Enabled  
OVER 2000 STUDENTS  
AND TEACHERS TO GET  
TO SCHOOL

Supported  
ALMOST 200  
MISSIONARY AND  
PASTOR'S FLIGHTS TO  
SPREAD THE GOSPEL





Barney has just ‘graduated’ from pre-school and is getting ready to start school in January; they call it ‘transition’ in the Northern Territories and the kids are known as ‘tranny’s’!!! Reuben continues to make new friends and is really happy at nursery.

Ben has taken up fishing, having heard Arnhem Land is supposed to have some of the best fishing in Australia. However, having failed to catch a fish yet, he believes these claims might be overinflated!

Esther continues to create wonderful art and has been able to exhibit it at some local events in the run up to Christmas and she continues to work at the Women’s shelter.

We wish you all a fantastic 2024 and look forward to hearing from you soon.



## Programme and Ministry News

The remote nature of the communities in Arnhem Land means that many of the things that normally travel by road have to be flown. Every week we transport a whole host of different items from regular shipments of medicines and vaccines, to fridges, dogs, cats,, plants and car parts.

One of the more significant events we support is the flying of deceased people between communities. Some weeks we will conduct 3 or 4 of these flights and it is strange how you can become so used to loading coffins onto aircraft! For Yolngu being buried in your Homeland is very important and these flights carry huge cultural significance. When we fly a coffin up to 100 people will arrive at the airport to send it off, filling the car park and check in area. These flights provide a great time to witness to people and often pilots will lead family members in prayer as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

### Word of Encouragement

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. ISAIAH 9:6



SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL





BARNY FISHING



EVENING BY THE FIRE

## Prayer Points

1. Barny as he starts at school, may he make good friends and really enjoy learning lots of new things.
2. Our ministry whether it be at MAF, the Women's Shelter, church or the community we live in. We want the love of Christ to transform people's lives.
3. Our new baby grows strong and healthy.
4. Physical and spiritual protection. We are entering Cyclone season and there is always a risk that Arnhem Land gets hit.



ESTHER BIBLE TEACHING AT CHURCH



HAVING A SHORT CAMPING HOLIDAY

