

Adventures in Papua New Guinea



Hagen outreach event and generators

Tales of a Missionary by David & Caroline Moore

Welcome to our March/April Newsletter 2022

Thank you for signing up to receive these, for your prayers and to those of you who are giving financial support. We are so grateful to have you on our team as we serve in PNG.

“Many Christians hear stories of God at work and think he could never use them that way because they aren't super-Christians. The truth is, there are no super-Christians. There are only normal people who have said yes to God.” Darren Wilson - God Adventures.

Kagamuga Compound Generator Mount Hagen



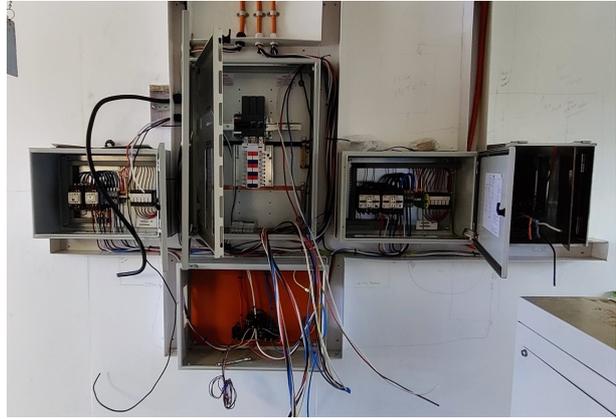
PNG power has got increasingly worse in just the time we have been here. The lack of investment in infrastructure after the Australians left at Independence in the 1970's is one thing; but the deliberate sabotage of the PNG people cutting the power lines when they are Tribal fighting is another element. In the case below PNG Power could not go in to fix the chopped lines until the defence force could accompany them.

PNG Power was off to our Kagamuga compound by Mount Hagen Airport for 3 days over Easter and people ran out of water (supplied by electric pump) and their freezers were defrosting. We are in town and have Solar Power, but they as a bigger compound, have a back up generator. However that generator is 20 years old and after its obsolete controller failed, needed new parts from Australia to fix it. This part arrived in time for Dave to spend Easter Monday, and the next few days (while Dave was suffering with the flu) completely rebuilding the generator control panel and re wiring the spaghetti of old wires.

Headquarters generator



Out with the old



And in with the new



It is Finished



End of a long Day

A new Generator for the HQ had arrived while we were on home assignment, to replace the 37 year old one we rely on heavily each day to keep the office running, due to the unreliability of PNG power. Dave has been under a lot of pressure to get it wired in and operational. However I don't think many people realised just what a big job it was. Much of the wiring at the HQ is over 50 years old and has been rat eaten in places. The generator load had to be balanced over 3 phases, new auto changeover panels were to be fitted, PNG power had to change over the feed, shutting down the whole site for 8 hours, and their electrician had to certificate the work. All great experience for Sylvester, our electrician that Dave is coaching, with him carrying out 90% of the work with Dave's guidance and support. The certificating electrician said it was some of the best work he had seen in 20 years! Dave's broad experience and electronic apprenticeship in control panels all being used to the Glory of God, several times over !

Hagen Outreach Event



Prayer Walking under His Rainbow



Rubbish Clearance & the Container

Caroline started prayer walking Tarangau field outside High-rise compound in Mount Hagen Town a week before the event. A couple of days later work started to clear up the rubbish fly tipped on the corner of the road. Dave had asked the Town Council to take away or bury the rubbish, which they said they would do if we got rid of the rusted old container which had been there for years. So PVM team came and David Edsmyr (Dave's deputy) cut the beast into chunks to dispose of it. A man yelled at him that it was his, but people in the community who were passing said not to listen to him, and seemed pleased we were clearing up. Over the next two days guys from PVM were threatened and intimidated when they came to strim (weed-whack) the public field. Our security firm, and the police came the first day. No support the second day. So work stopped and a community meeting was called.

The guy causing the trouble was the owner and two sons of the bar on another corner of the field. It seems the rusted container (that became a public toilet and rubbish dump) was some kind of land grab. We were told by some locals he is not the kind of guy anyone wants to mess with, and he started to demand compensation, or a new container.

The community meeting happened on the Saturday that the tents were going to go up. As MAF we cannot pay protection money or bribes, but some of our national staff and local community payed him 'compensation' the Melanesian way, in order for our event to continue.

So the big tops went up on Sunday in the pouring rain. Dave and team put in lighting and sound systems, projectors screens and stage, for the event to start on Wednesday through Saturday. This was Dave's third weekend working through, with the take down the following weekend.



The Hagen outreach event was very successful in engaging with the local community, telling them about MAF: our work to reach the isolated communities of PNG with aid, health care, education and support for churches (such as transport to bible college or conferences). That we come from all over the world to assist the PNG people in their development, for no cost to themselves. That we are not just another airline.

And also of course to tell them about Jesus and that our hope in Him is why we are here. We had kids programme 3-5 in the afternoons, with games, face-painting, balloon-modelling and films.



Dave Doing his Thing !

6-9/10pm We had worship bands and dance groups from the local Churches, Staff interviews, short MAF videos, Gospel messages and films. We showed The Jesus Film in Tolk Pisin, The End of the Spear, and two episodes of The Chosen.

On the last night Pastor Lesley of KBBN (our local Church) gave a call for people to give their hearts to Jesus, and many people responded. Please pray for these new believers, and that the community may have a continued peace. Also that the different denominations would continue to work together.

Troubled Times in Hagen



Caroline takes part in MAF Prayer Day and speaks at leaving party for two couples who between them have served MAF for over 60 years

Sadly there have been many deaths in Hagen recently.

Two town high schools were fighting so badly that the defence force was called and rubber bullets and tear gas was used. there were deaths and chopped limbs. The schools closed down for several weeks during exam season.

There have been fights and deaths amongst the tribes with retaliation, and tensions are high. Some of our staff could be targeted because of where they were born, so extra care is needed.

There have been many fatal accidents on the highway recently, and big crowds gather and riot over that too. They blockaded the road and smashed the windscreens of passing cars with large rocks. Connie (our country Directors wife) had to take evasive action and shelter in a school compound.

Then there are the approaching elections. This week it was announced that a local official was fired, due to corruption, and a new election official was coming from the Capitol Port Moresby. So the locals blockaded the airport to stop him coming in. Air Nuigini stopped flying into Hagen as it wasn't deemed safe. Dave had the headache of getting all our staff home safely on the back roads, and collecting kids from schools as they closed, as there was rioting in town. The officials eventually backed down and the original guy has been reinstated.

This is why I say that the Western Highlands are like 'the Wild West'.

Quick to settle things with violence, or compensation money.

We have had several "stay in place/ don't leave your compound" days, and told to have at least two weeks worth of food in, as well as getting E-visa's for Australia in-case we need to be evacuated.

However, as Expats, (yes, I have now embraced that term) we are generally only a target for opportunistic crime, such as phone/cash theft. I never carry a handbag/bilum, when I walk. But we came because we wanted to see the hand of God in a way we rarely do in the West, where we are protected by so much else. Due to prayer, I feel at peace and divinely protected here.

Please pray with us for peace in Hagen as well as the rest of PNG

We pray that you will be blessed as you join us on our PNG adventure, as part of our team. We couldn't do this without you!

Praise & Prayer

Praise God For:

- Caroline's Health has greatly improved after adopting a strictly gluten free diet
- Safety of our MAF team
- A successful outreach event at Mount Hagen
- Answers to Prayer for Cathy

Please pray for:

- Continued protection and safety as we go into turbulent election time and for peace and an end to the violence, riots and blockades
- Good Health, the covid wave seems to have passed but many of our team have had a nasty old-fashioned flu
- The "Future Footprint" discussions at MAF International level about where to invest to increase our effectiveness to see isolated people's lives changed by the love of God in practical ways
- For Resilience, Kingdom solutions, and divine inspiration to help us not to feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be done
- For Staff to come to the key empty positions; IT Manager; HR Manager; a PA for Todd/Deputy Country Director

Thank you

- Your giving and prayers are so appreciated, and thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

We are so grateful to all our existing, and new sponsors
as we finally approach being fully funded.

However there is always more your money can do to support us and the work out here and if you are you interested in supporting us then feel free to make a one off donation or maybe set up a monthly support gift (which average £50 p/m but range from £10 p/m -£100 p/m) to help us continue serving in

PNG. Go to **www.maf-uk.org/moore**