

Tales of a Missionary by Dave and Caroline Moore

A view of Nissan Island just off of the coast of Bougainville

New Year - New Adventures

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Welcome to our January/February Newsletter 2024

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.

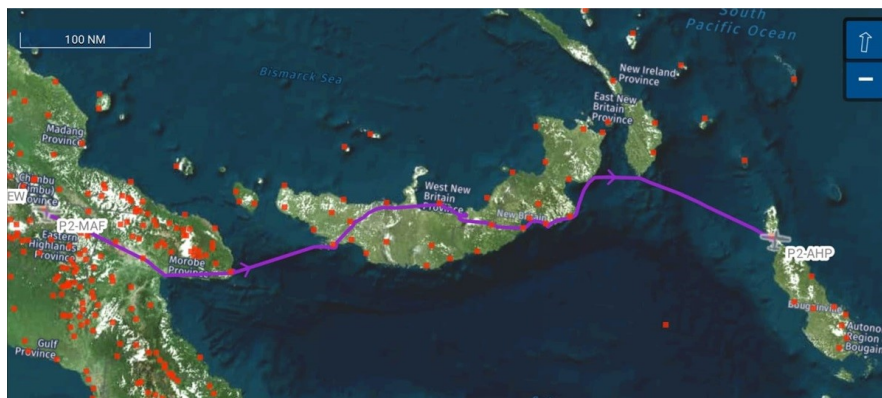
Dave's Trip to Bourganville

The last week of January I formed part of a team from MAFI who visited the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) after a request from the churches, medical practioners and governors of the islands.

The objective of the visit was to determine the viability of re-commencing flying in AORB and Atoll islands (such as Nissan island in the banner picture).



Wearing a life Jacket on a MAF plane in PNG is quite a rare occurrence but the route out to the Island was the first time MAF have done it in the Cessna Caravan so much of the flight was within glide distance of the coast line where possible and used to establish safe landing zones for future possible flights, along with a refueling stop at Hoskins on West new Britain roughly mid way through our 6 hour flight.



During our time we explored the island visiting old war time airstrips and new ones assessing them with the pilots for viability as well as visiting a number of old sites from where MAF used to operate and had housing back in the 1960 & 1970's. As well as meeting with officials and representatives of the churches, communities and government.

Since being back the team have submitted a report to MAF International for review and consideration, and to see if this may form part of MAFI's vision for 'more people, more places, more impact'



Above: Flying over the centre of the island, checking the heights of the volcano peaks, we could smell the sulphur in the air.

Below : The team meeting with the Hon. Ishmael Taorama
President for the Autonomous Bougainville Government



Progress on the Kagamuga Building Project



Work is now progressing quickly on the new housing block with foundations in and the framework all now up for the ground floor, and flooring beams being installed for the second floor. The ground is being prepared for the foundations of the new Motel building too and we are expecting to see similar steel frame erection begin for that in March.

What do Tea, Talk, Magazines and Vegetables have in Common?



I, Caroline, often get asked what I do. Tea and Talk is a weekly Bible Study I lead, picture above left of some of the ladies. I am on the Member Care Team, helping to support the MAF Ex-Pat community. I recently did a Critical Incident Debrief (CID) refresher course. My first CID was for the team of first responders to the Van crash in December.

The story of how I came to be in PNG is to be featured in this new magazine called 'Identity' which is being developed specifically for missionary wives, and written by a colleague.

It was incredibly great news therefore to hear in January that MAF-Australia had succeeded in fundraising all of the amount needed for us to install solar at our housing compound and Base of operations in Wewak an area currently relying on just 3 out of the original 5 generators installed for the town power grid after many years of neglect not to mention a current fuel crisis growing across the country.

MAF's own back-up generator at the compound has almost got to the point of no return, from a maintenance perspective, in recent weeks, leaving families with no power for up to 20 hours a day.

Fuel Crisis and Vote of No confidence in PNG Government

Creating the perfect storm. You may have seen the January riots in PNG on the international news. Around 15 people died as shops were looted and burnt down and an attempt was made to storm Parliament building. Riots were mostly in Port Moresby (POM) the capital, spreading to Lae and Goroka. Praise God Hagen stayed calm. The opposition are taking this opportunity to have continuing votes of no confidence in the Government which is paralyzing all decision making.

Puma Energy which has a monopoly on the supply of fuel into and out of PNG as part of their deal with the PNG Government for them to invest in building an oil refinery (yes PNG has its own oil).

However many of the world banks have started freezing Puma's accounts and assets for money laundering, and they are now unable to supply petrol, diesel and Jet A1 aviation fuel. This is causing significant impact on the aviation industry, which provides a significant proportion of the country's economy, as does the export of fuel. It has also impacted MAF's operation with tight control and slight reduction in flying hours. The lack of availability of Jet A1 fuel in Drums, which we rely on heavily in so many of our remote areas and bases, is a major problem. Only a handful of airports are large enough to have bulk fuel supplies, which are also drying up rapidly. Air Nuigini is the only operator flying in and out of the country, solely supplied by Puma up until now. Internal flights have seen the most cancellations with only 2/5 of the usual flights to Mount Hagen.

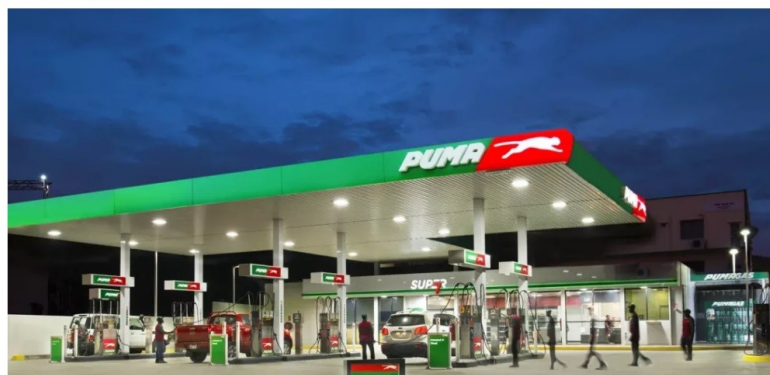
PACIFIC / PAPUA NEW GUINEA

No end in sight to PNG fuel woes

2:27 pm on 29 February 2024

 Don Wiseman, RNZ Pacific Senior Journalist
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Much of PNG's electricity also comes from diesel generators, as do the phone/internet repeater towers. Fuel prices have been rising significantly with the shortage. With the government currently suspended due to the ongoing Votes of no Confidence, attempts at price capping has failed entirely, allowing prices to become wildly variable and diesel and petrol in very short supply.

One of the most recent incidents related to this issue was the kidnap of a helicopter, pilot, crew and cargo of diesel being flown out to top up the generators at a remote cell tower, leading to further flight restrictions in some remote areas and even more hardship for the many living in such remote locations. Fortunately thanks to swift action by police in the area the crew and helicopter were recovered shortly after the incident the same day.

Praise & Prayer

Praise God For:

- Funding for Solar Installation at Wewak Housing Compound where PNG power is increasingly unreliable. It is hot there on the coast and they rely on fans.
- Corbus and family are due to arrive soon to help run the maintenance team so Dave can concentrate on planning the many projects and strategic, bigger picture thinking for the future.
- Nellis is doing a fantastic job project managing Kagamuga build. If he hadn't been able to come, Dave would probably have burnt out. It would be fantastic if he were able to stay beyond the initial year contract which ends in August.

Please pray for:

- Stable and just Government for PNG, law and order, Godly leaders and peacemakers. That PNG would truly become One Nation under God as we sing about in our National Anthem.
- An end to the fuel crisis
- We really need a new MAF PNG Country Director! Everyone is overloaded with work as several families have left recently. Our Southern Hemisphere Regional Director has just resigned too, after barely a year.
- Dave and I are exhausted. As well as health and safety, please pray for resilience and strength to finish our term well.
- There are two staff related issues we would really like to see resolved.

Thank you

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



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!