



SERVING WITH MAF IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Amamas Krismas lo yupela

We cannot believe it is nearly Christmas. That means we have nearly been here a whole year! And what a year it's been?! Last Christmas we were travelling around to many homes and churches, sofa-surfing with all our belongings packed up in a rental car, and saying our goodbyes. This year, we are fully settled, very busy in our new roles and family routines, and looking forward to Christmas-with its new weather (shorts and ice-cream anyone?) and new family traditions to be made. All the while, incredibly thankful to Our Saviour who has provided and sustained us endlessly this past year! And thankful to be blessed by you all too-for reading, for contacting us, for sending us your own updates and mostly for praying and partnering with us in this incredible first year! Thank you!



Hot off the press! Last night at the programme Christmas party at the beautiful Signature restaurant in Mount Hagen

Family

Since our last update we have all been very busy, but we did get the chance to have a wonderful holiday in Cairns. We spent 2 weeks swimming in the sea and lagoon, walking through rainforests, meeting Australian animals (feeding rock wallabies was a real family highlight!), enjoying shopping (and stocking up on all clothes and shoes needed for the next year), and even enjoyed a Dominoes pizza or 2!

The children all finished school on December 1st, Abi graduated as valedictorian of her class and she said goodbye to her friends as in January she starts her new adventure at Ukarumpa International School, in Aiyura. Last time we asked you to pray about this big family decision. We will be heading over 4th-11th January to spend a week with her to help her settle into her new room and school. Abi starts her new school on 9th January, and Emma and Isaac don't go back until 31st January!

We have had 2 new additions join our family, 2 kittens born in our wardrobe in August when we were looking after our friends' cat – meet Yoda and Vader. Mum lost the vote to name them. They are very playful and often found chasing boxes, fridge magnets, and the odd bird or gecko. The children love having them curl up on their beds and laps, and they make the place feel 'homely'.



Yoda and Vader in their usual positions.



Abi and her friends at her graduation party.

Dom

Dom has continued to settle into his new role(s)! Since our last prayer letter, he has been asked to look after programme security alongside the safety and training roles. To support with the extended job roles, he is currently advertising for an occupational safety officer, please pray that the right person comes forward for that job. Dom has been really enjoying working in the programme, and has settled in well with the rest of the team.

The highlight of the last few months was going to the 'pilots meeting', back to back with the 'Joint Mission Aviation Conference' where he got to meet many other people from around the mission aviation world in PNG. That included SIL, Samaritan Aviation and New Tribes Mission.



The Family with Dom's team from left to right Sequoia, Kamobwa, Elvarica, Dom, Abi, Joshua, Emma, Lydia and Isaac.

Sequoia



Sequoia on her first day of school work

The past 6 months have been busy at the school-a few teachers have had time off unexpectedly, which has seen me covering Math, Health and English lessons. I spent some lesson time reading through a class novel, and the Grade 5/6 class were so hooked that when I finished the book, they all clapped and cheered. It was so wonderful to see such delight in reading for pleasure, we really take for granted having access to good quality books on our shelves in the UK.

After the school term finished on December 1st, I started my role at MAF. I have joined the Property and Vehicle Maintenance team (PVM) and am working in the office providing admin support along with another lady. I have enjoyed my first month settling in just 1 day a week, and once the children are back at school, I will work 3 days a week. Please pray for me as I settle into the team and into this new work.

Abi

I am loving the Christmas activities during the holiday. I am starting to miss school because there is too much time in the day. I know I am going to love going to boarding school but I am nervous about leaving my family. We are all going on the 4th of January to have a look around and then they will leave on the 11th. Please pray that I will settle in well and make lots of friends (and that I don't forget anything crucial)!



Emma



It is currently the school holidays, after Christmas I will start Grade 7. I look forward to meeting my new teacher, but I will miss Mr Dikinsep my teacher from this year. I am looking forward to Christmas here- it's warm so we can play outside, but I will really miss 'pigs in blankets' with my dinner as I normally have lots.

Isaac

I am really enjoying the Christmas season and I love being off school for 8 weeks. All of my infections have gone now! My friend from school has come over to play at my house, and we love playing in the garden. We went to Cairns and I really enjoyed McDonalds even though we only had it twice.



Christmas in PNG...

Christmas is certainly different here. It is the 'wet season', which means it rains late afternoon, but it is still very warm and sunny all day-certainly not Christmas market weather, and no need to wrap-up warm for Christmas!

The whole MAF team gather this week for a Christmas Bung Lotu (worship and food!) at the office, to share the Christmas story, sing carols, pray and share a mumu (big underground pit filled with vegetables and meat, then covered to cook). British Christmas treats aren't sold here, so we've been busy making our favourite festive treats from scratch - mince pies, vanilla iced biscuits, cinnamon swirls, hot chocolate cones, and even stuffing. This year there is no turkeys, pigs in blankets or brussels sprouts (controversial, but Isaac really loves them!), so we will be enjoying Christmas chicken dinner instead!

We are really excited for Christmas day though. We will meet together with the other MAF families to carol and share the story of Jesus. There will be a travelling MAF meal, where we share our traditions and food across the compounds and enjoy the day with our MAF family. What a great way to spend the day.



Prayer Points:

- Praise God for how He has sustained us this year!
- Pray for our families this Christmas-it will be the first we're separated and I know we will be missing each other.
- Praise God for Abi's new school. Pray for her and us as we transition through another big change. For comfort and friends for Abi away from home, and for Emma and Isaac as they adjust again.
- Pray for the busy-ness of Dom's job – there have been a number of aircraft incidents recently that has meant he has had a really busy end to the year!

To receive more up-to-date regular prayer points, please consider joining our WhatsApp group where we post fortnightly. Reply to the email for more details. [Or use this link to enter the group directly!](#)