



# At the right place – at the right time

SENTANI, Indonesia - A Papuan woman and her newborn were placed on a stretcher and whisked along the mountain trail from their village toward the small grassy airfield at Pangema. Birth had taken place the previous day, but the placenta had not come out as it should have.

As the stretcher bearers made their way along the uneven trail, the baby resting at its mother's feet, under a tattered red blanket, was still attached to her by the umbilical cord.

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Flying toward Pangema at 8,000 feet in a Cessna 206, Canadian MAF pilot Fred Heier did not yet know he would be handling a medical evacuation that day.

Instead, he was on his way there to fly a previously scheduled flight for an Indonesian evangelist and his family moving to a new area.

*continued inside...*



*Pangema airstrip ... Canadian MAF pilot Fred Heier arrives in a C-206 in time to help.*

FRED HEIER PHOTO

## Celebrating 30 Years!

In 2003, MAF Canada celebrates 30 years as part of the worldwide MAF family!



*Who are we? We are 50 Canadian missionary families serving as pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, flight instructors, school teachers and office staff in Angola, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Papua New Guinea and South Africa. Working with 400 other MAF families around the world, we assist the needy in more than 30 countries.*

To find out more about MAF, please contact us or visit our booth at these upcoming Mission Fests:

<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>Jan 31 - Feb 2</b>
<b>Edmonton</b>	<b>Feb 21 - 23</b>
<b>Toronto</b>	<b>Feb 28 - Mar 2</b>
<b>Halifax</b>	<b>Mar 21 - 22</b>



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*Content ... Despite being bounced along a mountain trail on a stretcher, the baby seems content.*

## At the right place – at the right time

*Continued from front page...*

At Pangema, the booking agent asked Fred if he could take on a medivac right after his scheduled flight.

Unloading his passengers at Prongkoli and returning straightway to Pangema, Fred was able to fly the woman and her baby to Wamena for the medical help they needed.

An ambulance met the 206 at the MAF airport base and brought the grateful mother and her baby to hospital.

Soon afterward, both in good health, mother and child were able to fly back to Pangema and return to their village.

Fred had been at the right place – at the right time – to be able to help out.

Fred and his wife Kimberley, with their youngest daughter Alicia, live in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua on the vast island of New Guinea. The province was previously known as Irian Jaya.

The Heiers began MAF service in 1992, and raised their three daughters in Indonesia. Their two eldest, Amanda and Angela, now live in Manitoba.

Outside of flying, Fred has been able to put his skills to work as MAF Papua's chief of maintenance (1997 – 2001),

also doing double duty as maintenance manager (2000 – 2001).

MAF Papua's 10 Cessna 206s and three Cessna Caravans are kept at the ready for churches, missions, and community development projects serving Papuans isolated by rugged mountains and wide stretches of swamp land.

Riverboats, mountain trails and jungle tracks provide the travel alternative in this part of the world, and so government officials also fly MAF when they need to reach isolated areas.

Despite rich natural resources – including the world's largest gold mine at Timika, where 16,000 people are employed – Papua has the lowest standard of living among all 27 Indonesian provinces.

Papuans also suffer the highest infant and maternal mortality rates.

Two million people live in a province the size of Newfoundland, but they are divided into more than 250 different language groups that have lived separate from one another through the generations.



*Medivac ... Pilot Fred Heier with the mother he flew to Wamena and the ambulance attendants.*

Among the missions MAF serves in Papua are: the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), World Team, Unevangelized Fields Mission (UFM), Asia Pacific Christian Mission, Australian Baptist Missionary Society, Wycliffe Bible Translators, World Vision, Zending Gereformeerde Kerken (ZGK) of the Netherlands, and the Netherlands Reformed Church.

*Fred Heier is from Steinbach, Manitoba, and Kimberley is from Calgary, Alberta.*

*Prongkoli airstrip ... An MAF flight helped an Indonesian evangelist move his family to Prongkoli.*



FRED HEIER PHOTO



Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada works with other MAF groups around the world to serve isolated communities in 30 nations. At present, ministry opportunities\* are available for:

- Pilots (with Commercial IFR Licence)
- Pilot/Engineers
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineers
- Avionics Technicians
- Radio/Computer Technicians
- Base/Operations Managers
- School Teachers

\*One year of Bible college or equivalent required in addition to technical qualifications.

Our most urgent requirement at this time is for aircraft maintenance engineers and school teachers.

**Please contact:**  
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**264 Woodlawn Road West**  
**Guelph, Ontario N1H 1B6**

Or call toll-free: 1-877-351-9344

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*We exist to demonstrate God's love through aviation, communications, and logistics to meet spiritual and physical needs. Our vision is that all people have access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the resources to meet their needs.*

MAF Canada is a charter subscriber to the Canadian Council of Christian Charities' seal of financial accountability.

## Neutral ground

MANIWO, Indonesia – MAF missionaries Fred and Kimberley Heier recently visited the remote community of Maniwo where a New Tribes Mission family has started to work deep inside the forest jungle among the unevangelized Moi people.

Fred had already gone into this area twice before – first to help search out an airstrip site, and then to help construct a building. On this third visit, he was there to lay out the direction and slope of a runway.

As God directed, the valley chosen by these missionaries for their mission station, after failed attempts at other locations, turned out to be the only neutral valley within the Moi tribal group.

“If they had chosen any other valley, people from the surrounding valleys would not have come to see them,” writes Kimberley.

“But since this is a neutral valley, not really claimed by any family group or clan within the tribe, and the main chief lives there, all the people can and will go to see the missionaries.”



KIMBERLEY HEIER PHOTO

*New area ... Moi children at Maniwo*

At Maniwo, Kimberley had a chance to visit with missionary women who rarely have contact with other expatriates.

She has actively helped missionaries such as these, as well as the Papuan people around her, since she and Fred first began MAF ministry in 1992.

Outside of raising her own family, Kimberley has cared for Papuan babies, held cooking classes for women, taught English as a second language, routinely purchased eggs for delivery to missionaries in isolated areas, and operated MAF housing for short-term staff.

## Hard issues for MAF Papua

MAF Papua is wrestling with hard issues as it continues flight operations in eastern Indonesia.

“We are working proactively to minimize our exposure and risk so that we can continue to work and minister effectively and safely in Indonesia,” Jonathan Raney, MAF’s acting program manager in Papua province, said in a statement on October 17.

“Please continue to pray for wisdom, safety, and strength during this time. Pray that our lives would be a mirror of His love in the midst of the uncertainty that surrounds us in the world today. The Lord is our Rock and our Fortress. Psalm 18.”

Tension has heightened throughout Indonesia since two targeted attacks against expatriates.

On October 12, bombs killed more than 180 people on the vacation island of Bali, near Java.

Six weeks earlier, three teachers were killed in Papua while traveling from their school at the giant Grasberg gold mine, in which U.S.-based Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc has a controlling interest and the Anglo-Australian firm Rio Tinto plc has a 40 percent stake.

# Champions reflect on years as MAF teachers in Tanzania

**"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Champion: You've been the best headmaster and best teacher ever!"**



David Champion ... school headmaster in Tanzania



Lorraine Champion ... an MAF teacher for 14 years



CHAMPION PHOTO

All nations ... Children from many nationalities and diverse faith backgrounds are taught by MAF teachers.

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania – "Let's pray that we will never turn our backs on Jesus!"

This exhortation from a little girl in Lorraine Champion's Grade 1 class reflected wisdom far beyond her young life.

At Haven of Peace Academy in Dar es Salaam, all children learn about Jesus - even though their parents come from diverse faith backgrounds.

Looking back at her years as an MAF teacher in Tanzania, Lorraine said it gave her great joy to watch children, and even whole families, come to faith in Jesus Christ.

She loved to share Bible verses with the children, and to help them grow spiritually.

Memories of special moments will stay with her forever.

For example, while providing extra reading help to a Grade 3 child from a Hindu family, Lorraine had the unexpected privilege of answering this girl's many thoughtful questions about God.

The girl was with her regular Grade 3 teacher at the moment when she decided to ask Jesus Christ into her heart. Upon doing so, her first words were: "Now I'm free!"

Lorraine grew up in the small farm community of Wymark, Saskatchewan, and began serving as an MAF teacher in 1989.

She met David, a teacher from Folkestone, England, while they were both teaching in Dodoma, Tanzania, and having to share a vehicle to get to school each day. They married in 1993.

The next year, they moved to Dar es Salaam to become the first teachers at a brand new school.

David served as principal of Haven of Peace through its years of rapid growth, while he also taught the senior classes. Lorraine taught Grade 1.

This year, the Champions completed their MAF service and moved to England where David is studying theology through Spurgeon's College in London.

"When we were asked if we would consider starting a new Christian school in Dar es Salaam (in 1994), MAF Canada encouraged us in our decision," says Lorraine. "The school is a miracle from God and we praise Him."

The Champions know how important it is for missionaries to feel that their children are provided for in the area of schooling.

They have seen missions choose Dar es Salaam as their administrative base because Haven of Peace is there to provide an excellent education for children.

The children who currently attend Haven of Peace represent 20 different nationalities.

School enrolment has grown from 48 students in the first year to more than 200 today, with 17 teachers for Kindergarten through Grade 10.

"All this happened because missionaries already in Dar were praying, asking the Lord what they should do about their children's education," David recounts.

"As they prayed and shared together, they started to formulate rules and standards, and then applied for permission for a school. The Lord had asked them to make the start."

David says the school is a place where every day, every child is seen as special. After all, God loves each one and has made each one unique.

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Lorraine says it has been exciting to see the Lord at work in the hearts of children.

"They hear God's Word. They sing Bible choruses and hymns. They learn the story of Jesus and memorize verses. They are loved, and encouraged to try to attain a high academic standing."

*David and Lorraine Champion write: "We are grateful to the Lord for allowing us to be in Tanzania to see Him at work in such an amazing way. We feel at perfect peace knowing that He will lead us on."*

## Did You Know?

*School teachers are vital to the continuing ministry of MAF. They help make our flights and communication services possible by caring for the needs of our staff families around the world.*

*Please let your friends and family know that we're looking for more teachers who are sure of God's calling to missionary service.*

*Meet three Canadian MAF teachers and their families based in Papua, Indonesia:*

**DARREN AND JANNA BERG** – Darren and Janna Berg of Saskatchewan began MAF service in 2000. Their son Jalen was born in 2001. Darren teaches algebra, calculus and geometry to students in Grades 8 - 12.

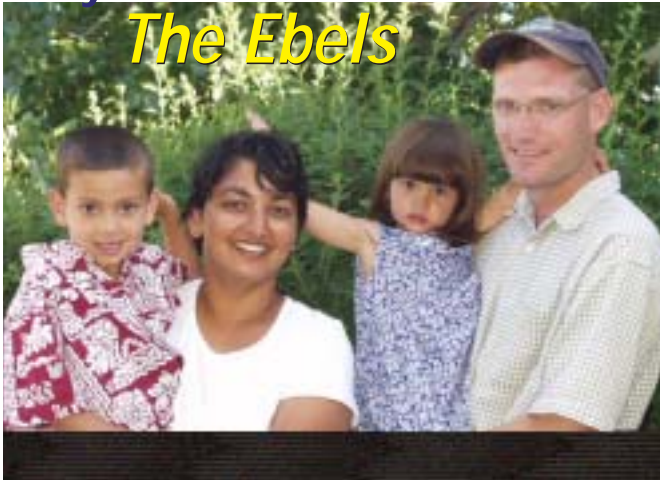
**PAUL AND KAREN JUNEAU** – Paul and Karen Juneau with their infant son Darryl arrived in Indonesia this year. Paul has started a one-year term teaching children in Grades 1 - 4. Paul grew up in Alberta, and Karen in Saskatchewan.

**DAN AND KATHLEEN WIEBE** – Dan and Kathleen Wiebe, with daughters Emma and Hannah, also arrived in Indonesia this year. Dan is a Grade 6 - 8 teacher, serving with MAF for two years. Dan and Kathleen are from British Columbia.

*Background photo ... Dar es Salaam faces the Indian Ocean where fishermen on their dows are a common sight. (CHAMPION PHOTO)*

## May We Introduce...

### *The Ebels*



*Ebel family ... Richard and Susan, with Joshua and Morgan*

After serving with MAF for two years in northern Australia, Richard and Susan Ebel moved to Three Hills, Alberta, where Richard is now a flight instructor seconded to the mission aviation program at Prairie Bible Institute.

Richard and Susan also serve as faculty advisors to the international students' group at Prairie.

Richard was born in Calgary but spent most of his early years in New Zealand and American Samoa.

He became interested in aviation at Capernwray Bible School in New Zealand when he heard MAF missionaries give a presentation on their work in Papua New Guinea.

He earned his commercial pilot's licence at the MAF flight training centre in Ballarat, Australia.

Susan was also born in Calgary. After high school, she studied criminology, computers and medical terminology.

Richard and Susan met at Valley Christian Fellowship in Abbotsford, BC, and a year later, they were married. Their son Joshua was born in 1997 and daughter Morgan in 1999.

If you are interested in meeting the Ebels, and hearing more about the work of MAF, please contact us in Guelph, Ontario, toll free at 1-877-351-9344.

You can also meet Richard by visiting the MAF booth at the Vancouver Mission Fest (Jan 31 - Feb 2) or the Edmonton Mission Fest (Feb 21 - 23).

If you are not currently supporting MAF on a regular basis and are considering how you can get involved, please consider supporting Richard and Susan Ebel.

Your gifts, combined with those of other Ministry Partners, will be used to provide our missionaries with such needs as housing, children's education and medical care. Even a monthly gift of \$20 or \$25 can go a long way toward providing for these needs.

To begin your support of Richard and Susan Ebel, or any other missionary featured in this or any issue of *Life Link*, simply indicate your preference on the enclosed response card, and send it to us with your next monthly gift.

## Our attitude



It seems that the attitude of our time can be summed up in one word: apprehension.

When we hear of wars and rumours of war, it can create in our hearts a fear of the future. When we see the volatility of the stock market and the corporate scandals, we can become afraid of our resources.

When we look at the breakdown of our society, and its effect in our homes and neighbourhoods, we wonder what is happening to us.

We are concerned for our children, our aged parents, our grandchildren.

We see the poverty of those around us, and the scenes on television of those in poorer countries, and our heart goes out to them. We can become overwhelmed by the needs and feel we are constantly being pressured to give of our limited resources.

In the book of Isaiah, we see similarities with our time. The mood of the people, as we read in the last verse of chapter 8, is one of distress, darkness and fearful gloom. But then, in chapter 9, verse 2, we have our answer.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Jesus Christ is the light that we at MAF want to spread throughout the world.

As you read about MAF ministry in our *Life Link* newsletter, I trust you will be encouraged with the work of your missionaries. Whether we are flying airplanes or repairing them, doing office work or teaching children in their schools, we want to do our part in representing Christ – so this "light" can shine in every part of the world.

Faced with apprehensions and uncertainties, we can say as Isaiah did in chapter 12, verse 2: "God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."

May God be your confidence as we face these days of uncertainty, and may you have a blessed Christmas!

Together with you in His service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Epp".

Ron Epp  
Executive Director  
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada



*Ron Epp ... with chief pilot Jeff Plett, at left, who has served with MAF Canada for 15 years - in Tanzania, Kenya and Canada.*

## Notes...

### **New Testament for Chad**

N'DJAMENA, Chad – Canadian pilot Calvin Hildebrandt reports that SIL International, affiliated with Wycliffe Bible Translators, has completed its translation of the New Testament into the Kera language, spoken by 40,000 people in Chad and a few thousand in Cameroon. Calvin often provides flights for SIL teams and supplies to support translation and linguistic projects in Chad.

“Our role as a support to the other mission organizations in Chad is becoming clearer to us as we get to know the various projects that depend on MAF services,” Calvin writes. “We enjoy seeing God at work here.”

*Calvin and Dorilee Hildebrandt, from Abbotsford, BC, arrived in Chad in 2001. They live in N'Djamena with their three young daughters.*

### **Children rescued from school**

YAMOISSOUKRO, Ivory Coast - French soldiers evacuated 200 children and staff, including three children of MAF families, from a boarding school after they were trapped in crossfire during a rebel uprising.

Well-armed troops from France entered Bouaké on September 25 to secure the International Christian Academy. A hundred soldiers then escorted the convoy that brought the children and staff families to safety in the capital, Yamoussoukro. Eighteen Canadians were among the 160 children and 39 members of staff families evacuated from the school.

### **Congo evacuation**

NYANKUNDE, Democratic Republic of Congo – MAF evacuated mission staff from eastern Congo after the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the region led to renewed attacks by ethnic militia.

MAF pilot Dave Jacobsson was at Bunia handling an evacuation flight when the Nyankunde mission station was attacked September 5. Within hours, an estimated 1,000 people, including hospital patients and children, were slaughtered.

Dave could not fly back into Nyankunde until the next day to evacuate his own family. His wife Donna and two young sons had to

endure a tense 27 hours without radio contact while militia entered their home several times.

After his family was evacuated, Dave and other MAF pilots continued flying into eastern Congo from Nairobi, bringing out mission and hospital workers.

Witnesses of the Nyankunde massacre fled 150 km through swamp and rainforest until they reached the Oicha hospital on September 22.

“These are stories that need to be told, not only to our Christian churches, but to the world – tales of tribal conflict, anarchy and inhumane conditions in parts of eastern Congo,” writes Dr. William Clemmer, an American Baptist Missionary at Oicha.

Uganda and other nations withdrew their armies from eastern Congo as part of a peace accord to end a four-year war.

### **Medical mission in Mongolia**

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia – Pilot Janne Ropponen with MAF-affiliated Blue Sky Aviation flew five doctors and two mission workers from the Good Neighbors Society to the west of Mongolia where they held a clinic for the sick in a prison, and visited disabled children.

He also flew four members of the Mongolian Evangelical Alliance to Tsetserleg for a week-long theological education seminar attended by local church leaders who often work in isolation in remote areas.

### **Smoke interrupts MAF service**

PALANGKARAYA, Indonesia – MAF cancelled flights out of Palangkaraya from August to October as choking haze from more than 1,000 fires severely reduced visibility throughout Central Kalimantan province.

Most fires were started deliberately by farmers and plantation owners preparing vast fields for a new planting season. Smoldering peat produced pollution levels dangerous to human health.

*MAF pilot Remi van Wermeskerken of Vancouver, BC, is based at Palangkaraya with his wife Tjandra and their three children.*

### **Sudan flight ban**

LOKICHOGGIO, Kenya – After a temporary ban on all humanitarian access to the southern

part of Sudan, MAF resumed flights for aid workers and relief supplies. MAF pilot Roy Rissanen flew a World Relief team from Nairobi to Lokichoggio, and from there, Anne Ezinga flew the team on to Pochalla.

Please pray for progress in peace talks to end this long war that has claimed two million lives. During the flight ban, 400,000 people were unable to receive essential food supplies.

### **Polio vaccine in Madagascar**

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar - MAF flights have played a major role in distributing polio vaccine throughout Madagascar as part of the government's plan to eliminate polio in this nation by 2005.

MAF has been swamped with flight requests as this island nation attempts to rebuild following eight months of violent political upheaval sparked by a disputed election in December 2001.

### **Bible for Wai Wai in Brazil**

BOA VISTA, Brazil – Christians in the Boa Vista area of northern Brazil are rejoicing over the arrival of the complete Bible in the language of the Wai Wai people. MAF and affiliate Asas de Socorro have supported ministry to these people for 40 years.

Members of the Cariban linguistic group, the Wai Wai by now are mostly Christians who are active in their own mission efforts to neighbouring groups. Boa Vista is situated 200 km from the Venezuelan border.

### **Flights support hospital in Uganda**

KAMPALA, Uganda - MAF has taken on many flights to deliver medicines to Kalongo Hospital as insecurity in northern Uganda continues. Rejean Houle, head of the hospital's technical department, says: “MAF was so good to help us. They are definitely missionaries.”

The situation in Kalongo remains difficult, with up to 4,600 people entering the hospital at night to take refuge from the fighting.

*“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.” Proverbs 21:31*



*Radios ... Canadian pilot Tim Smith assists with a shipment of wind-up radios for rural Angolans. Radio provides an effective way to teach the Gospel because most Angolans cannot read, and pastors cannot travel to villages where land mines are still buried in the roads and surrounding fields. Trans World Radio programs in the Kuanyama and Luvale languages reach southern and eastern Angola. One listener said: “I was lost in sin, but thanks to God ... now I want to grow in the Word of God and to have His life shine through me!”*