



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

# LifeLink

Vol. 17 number 2, June 2003

## Waiwai celebrate Bible translation

**MAPUERA, Brazil** – In a Waiwai village deep inside the Amazon rainforest, less than one latitudinal degree south of the equator, Christians from several nations gathered for a special celebration.

To reach the village in Brazil's Reserva Indigena Mapuera, some had traveled downstream in outboard motor canoes from the border countries of Guyana or Suriname – a trip that took them more than a month.

Others, including missionaries from the Netherlands and United States, arrived first at the Brazilian cities of Boa Vista or Manaus on the Amazon River, and then boarded MAF flights to Mapuera.

Pilot Dan Lawrance, a Canadian who has served with MAF for 10 years, made two separate two-hour flights with a C206 floatplane for visitors flying via Manaus.

“When we landed at Mapuera and taxied up to the river embankment, there was a full reception of Waiwai people waiting for us, singing and clapping their hands or playing instruments,” Dan recounts. Balloons and colourful streamers strung across the water made for a festive display.

“But then we were asked to move the plane to the side, about 20 meters to the left, because they were expecting all of these boats to arrive next!”

As canoe after canoe pulled in, and groups of Waiwai Christians greeted each other, the level of excitement rose.

Over the next several days, the local people and more than 200 visitors would be inaugurating a new church building and dedicating the completed translation of the Bible into the Waiwai language.

A life-time labour of love for two UFM (Unevangelized Fields Mission) workers, the translation was started in 1955. Early last year, the Bibles were printed in the Netherlands and bound into handsome volumes about three inches thick.

Thanks to the faithfulness of translators Bob and Florine Hawkins, the Waiwai



*Please join us at a banquet as we celebrate our 30th anniversary!*

*See back page for details.*

### **HISTORY NOTE:**

*Did you know? The seven original founding members of MAF Canada were Dick Bittle, Rev. Linford Hackman, Rev. Les Hamm, Bryce Harris, Les Harris, Ralph Hartman and Robert Thompson.*



Waiwai youth ... with new Bibles in Mapuera, Brazil

DAN LAWRENCE PHOTO

have become the first of Brazil's native populations to receive a full Bible in their own language.

“We deeply appreciate the fellowship and help of MAF over all of these years,” 80-year-old Bob Hawkins told *Life Link*.

*continued inside...*

***“If sufficient missionaries are not available for Great Commission work, then those who are must be rendered more effective.” This sentence first appeared in MAF literature in 1945***



Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada  
264 Woodlawn Road West  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 1B6

Website: [www.mafc.org](http://www.mafc.org)



**Celebration ...** Local Waiwai greet visitors arriving at Mapuera, Brazil. Inset photo shows canoes pulling in after the landing of the MAF floatplane.

**Waiwai celebrate Bible translation ...** Continued from front page

“To live among the people the way we did, we could not have done without MAF.”

From 1949 to 1973, Bob and Florine were based at the Kanashen mission station in southern Guyana where MAF flights served a small rural airstrip, first with a Piper Family Cruiser that could haul only 375 pounds, and later with the larger Cessna 206.

“We were there five years before the first Waiwai man turned to the Lord, but then he quickly led his whole tribe to faith in Jesus Christ,” Bob recalls.

This story is well documented in the 1963 book by Homer E. Dowdy entitled *Christ's Witchdoctor: from Savage Sorcerer to Jungle Missionary* (Harper and Row Publishers Inc.).

“Today there is another chief in place among the Waiwai and he also loves the Lord,” Bob adds.

The Waiwai live mostly in north-central Brazil and southern Guyana in a broad section of rainforest where daunting river rapids and waterfalls have kept them isolated from the gold mining and logging enterprises that prevail in other parts of the Amazon Basin.

The people have become well known for the cottage industry necklaces, earrings and bracelets they craft from the seeds of morototo trees, which grow up to 100 feet tall in their section of the rainforest.

Mapuera, with a population of about 1,200, is the main seat of the community, but there are about 10 other Waiwai villages in Brazil and Guyana.

“When we first arrived in South America, the Waiwai were a dying tribe with a total population of only 440. But with medical help against malaria and other diseases, the death rate soon fell and the birth rate increased,” Bob shares.

Having conquered their own fear of evil spirits by faith in Jesus Christ, the Waiwai became a caring people who brought God's light to several other unreached tribes.

“To search out these other tribes, who were also dying out, they'd undertake these long and difficult trips over mountains and along rivers, one time traveling 45 days each way.

“Another time they looked and looked for a particular tribe they knew about. Finally, they found a tiny village of only 16 people. They have heard of one or two other small groups of this same tribe, but have not been able to contact them yet,” says Bob.

God in His providence has equipped Waiwai believers with the Word of God and good leadership at a time when



**UFM translator ...** Bob Hawkins with Canadian pilot Dan Lawrance



**New Waiwai Bible ...** opened at Psalm 23

the Brazilian government has banned any more expatriates from serving as missionaries to the native populations of Brazil.

With a total of 257 indigenous tribes in Brazil, and 103 of these not yet having any evangelical presence, there is still much outreach needed.

Last August 24 - 27, as celebrations went on at Mapuera, a storm began to brew outside.

Dan Lawrance decided it would be best if he spent the night in the moored floatplane to protect it from any heavy logs that might be tossed about in the agitated river.

Alone in the plane, his thoughts mulled over everything he had seen and experienced that day: the joy of the people, the energetic singing and the speeches.

For years, the Waiwai had anticipated this day. “Now that they have their Bible, what will happen next? What will their new goals be?” Dan wondered.

Dan had been glad to see a full range of ages among the Waiwai Christians gathered at the church. Waiwai youth are readying themselves for leadership.

But as residents of the Amazon rainforest, this new generation of believers is being confronted by a myriad of troubling issues in our day. Among these is the gathering storm of worldly interests who do not want Brazil's remaining unreached people to become Christians.

Please pray for the Waiwai, specifically that they will have a continuing strong witness to the unreached. Pray also for the many in Brazil who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.



**MAF passengers ...** Translator Bob Hawkins stands in the middle of this group at Mapuera, with teacher Irene Benson at his left and his wife Florine in blue dress.

## Five decades in the works

UFM translators Bob and Florine Hawkins spent almost five decades of their lives translating the full Bible for the Waiwai people of South America.

Last August, with their son accompanying them, they were able to board an MAF flight from Boa Vista, Brazil, to the small interior village of Mapuera to attend the dedication of the completed Waiwai Bible.

“We've had a wonderful association with MAF all this time,” Bob told *Life Link* in a phone interview. For many years, at their small mission station among the Waiwai, an MAF plane would land about once a month, bringing in supplies or visitors.

“In those days, we had a lot of visitors come through on MAF flights,” Bob recalls. One time, he had an opportunity to show the wife of the Communist prime minister of Guyana around the place.

Even after Bob and Florine returned to the United States, Bob continued to use MAF flights for the dozen or more follow-up trips he made to the Waiwai people to complete the translation.

It was 1949 when Bob and his two brothers first arrived in South America to reach the Waiwai. Bob soon married Florine, and they worked alone for a while until they were joined by Claude and Barbara Leavitt and Florence Riedle.

Before they knew the language well, they were telling the Waiwai about Jesus Christ and writing a few simple Bible songs. Music has always been part of the Hawkinses' ministry, and at the August 2002 dedication, they sang a new hymn Florine had written for the occasion.

Bob and Florine finished translating the Waiwai New Testament in 1984, and then worked for another 18 years to complete the full Bible. Today, they live with family in Odessa, Missouri.

Bob credits missionary teacher Irene Benson, stationed at Mapuera, with arranging the essential field work that helped to ensure the final accuracy of the translation.

Whenever the Hawkinses sent Irene a newly translated section of the Bible, she would gather together a group of strong believers from among the Waiwai and the group would spend entire days reading the material and collectively making improvements.

Bob believes the Waiwai translation is part of God's loving plan for His people. “We know that this work would never have been done without the many faithful friends who gave and prayed for us through all the years, even until now ...

“What the Lord is doing among tribal people all around the world in these latter days is completely remarkable,” Bob adds. “The Lord led. We saw Him working and we were just glad to be able to be a part of it.”

# Celebrating 30 Years



For us it is a privilege and a blessing to celebrate 30 years of service and ministry as Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada. We want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to you, our prayer partners and supporters, for making this ministry possible.

The work God has called us to do is more than any one church or mission agency can do on its own. For this reason we need to work together to accomplish the task He has given us. And we sincerely thank you for joining with us.

In Isaiah 46, God addresses the issues of idols and their uselessness and their incapacity to perform. One of the capabilities of our God is found in verse 10: "I make known the end from the beginning ..."

As we reflect on MAF Canada's 30 years, we have to humbly acknowledge that it was God who put the idea within the heart of men from the beginning and He knows how it will end.

The idea of using the airplane to fulfill the purposes of God is both exciting and rewarding. Just the word "aviation" invites thoughts of adventure, technology, risks, and large amounts of capital resources.

And yet God states that "I will do all that I please" and "What I have planned, that will I do" and "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14). In Jeremiah 32:27, He says, "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Right in the first book of the Bible, God asserts His ability, which is beyond our capacity to even comprehend.

We want to thank God for the people He has called into this ministry over these years. It has been a privilege to get to know our missionaries and to hear of their calling to God's purpose in their lives. Some began serving with MAF long before a Canadian MAF ministry was even established.

We are also thankful for the leadership of MAF Canada over these 30 years, the abilities and availability of these leaders as directed by God to fulfill the purposes of God for this ministry.

The flight program in Angola, which is the unique responsibility of MAF Canada, fulfills the purpose of getting the Gospel and relief to the less fortunate in that country. With the training of nationals and the continuing peace effort in Angola, we don't know what the future will look like. But it is exciting!

Until the Lord comes, or until the moment when He determines the work of MAF Canada to have fulfilled His purposes, we will continue to recruit those whom the Lord has called to minister with MAF.

The container (airplane) may change. The place of service (country) may change. The people will change, but the message will not change. The message of God's love coming to reconcile a people to himself through Jesus Christ is immutable.

Together with you in His Service,

Ron Epp  
Executive Director  
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada

# Canadians serving with MAF reach out – around the world



**CANADA**  
**Support staff**  
Staff workers in Guelph, Ontario, assist with missionary care and ministry development. Chief pilot Jeff Plett, in photo, oversees MAF Canada's operation in Angola and handles check flights for Canadians heading overseas.



**UNITED STATES**  
**Paul and Carol Bergen**  
Canadian pilot/engineer Paul Bergen, based in Redlands, California, oversees training for pilots heading out to MAF-US operations in South America, Africa and Indonesia. In photo, a new floatplane is dedicated for ministry in Indonesia.



**BRAZIL**  
**Neil and Meredith Bittle**  
**Dan Lawrance**  
The Bittles have served with MAF for 35 years, five years longer than MAF Canada has been in existence. Neil is senior instructor at the Asas de Socorro aviation school, and Meredith has helped with rural health clinics and international accounting. Pilot Dan Lawrance, now on home assignment in Canada, served in Brazil for 10 years.



**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**Mark and Jana Faus**  
**Mark and Kim Friesen**  
Pilot/engineer Mark Faus oversees MAF South Africa, which assists several nearby nations, including Mozambique. Mark Friesen is a short-term pilot. When disaster floods struck Mozambique in 2000, MAF and Air Serv jointly brought in 16 fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to rescue stranded people and fly supplies to relief camps.

**CANADA**  
**Richard and Susan Ebel**  
**Rick and Mary Barton**  
MAF pilot Richard Ebel, seconded to Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, trains students for aviation ministry. Rick Barton opened MAF's Western Canada recruitment office in 2001.

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**Larry and Jane Heintz**  
Based in Ashford, England, Larry Heintz is safety officer for MAF Europe operations in Africa, Bangladesh and Mongolia.



**CHAD**  
**Kalvin & Dorilee Hildebrandt**  
Kalvin Hildebrandt pilots a C206 for Bible translators, Chadian pastors and mobile medical clinics.



**ANGOLA**  
**Tim and Sandra Smith**  
**Gary and Doreen Toews**  
**Lonnie and Chris Wasik**  
**Gary and Tammy Goertzen**  
Senior pilot Tim Smith (in photo, far right) has served in Angola since 1997. Gary Toews is the new program manager and Lonnie Wasik the new pilot/engineer. Gary Goertzen is serving for one year as co-pilot.



**MONGOLIA**  
Canadians helped outfit the Millennium Messenger, a Grand Caravan serving in Mongolia since 2000.

**KENYA**  
**Keith and Rosemary Ketchum**  
**Michael and Jamie Trudeau**  
Based in Nairobi, Keith Ketchum is aviation maintenance co-ordinator for MAF Europe's fleet serving Africa, Bangladesh and Mongolia. Avionics technician Michael Trudeau and family recently returned to Canada and are on furlough.

**BOTSWANA**  
**Ken and Anne-Marie Baerg**  
**Rick Rempel**  
Aircraft maintenance engineer Ken Baerg and pilot Rick Rempel assist Flying Mission in Botswana.



**LESOTHO**  
**Melvin And Kari Peters**  
Melvin Peters provides flights serving the mountain villages of Lesotho. In photo, he assists with stretcher.



**INDONESIA**  
**(CENTRAL KALIMANTAN AND PAPUA)**  
**Rick and Amy Willms**  
**Clarence and Jeanette Togerez**  
**Fred and Kimberley Heier**  
**Remi and Tjandra van Wermeskerken**  
**Darren and Janna Berg**  
**Dan and Kathleen Wiebe**  
**Paul and Karen Juneau**  
Chief pilot Rick Willms, assistant chief pilot Clarence Togerez, pilot Fred Heier, pilot Remi van Wermeskerken and teachers Darren Berg, Paul Juneau and Dan Wiebe are seconded to MAF-US operations in Indonesia. In the 1997-98 drought, MAF used 14 aircraft to bring food relief to isolated villages.



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
**Lowell and Gail Deering**  
**Larry and Ruth Nicholson**  
**Michael and Anna Davis**  
**Richard and Jennifer Marples**  
**Brandon Coker**  
**Nels Kristenson**  
**Sheldon Miller**  
PNG chief pilot Lowell Deering, chief of maintenance Larry Nicholson, pilot Michael Davis, pilot Richard Marples and aircraft maintenance engineer Brandon Coker assist MAF Australia's ministry in PNG. Pilots Nels Kristenson and Sheldon Miller have returned to Canada and are on furlough. In 1998, when a tidal wave swept through coastal villages, MAF was first on the scene to fly out the injured and fly in relief supplies.

## May We Introduce...

### The Borkowskis



Craig and Delilah Borkowski are preparing to serve overseas with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Both were born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and raised in Christian homes. Both came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour at an early age. They met through a mutual friend in Craig's youth group and were married in 1987. Their daughter Jaclyn was born in 1989 and son Curtis in 1992.

Craig obtained his private pilot's licence at 18 years of age and then earned his commercial licence, multi-engine and instrument ratings as funds became available. He also holds an airline transport rating.

His 18-year flying career has taken the young family to northern Ontario, the Northwest Territories and back to Manitoba. While in Fort Providence, NWT, Craig flew a variety of patrols for natural resource officers monitoring ice on the Mackenzie River, forest fires, or collared wood bison at the edge of the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary.

At present, Craig is based in Winnipeg as a Pilatus PC-12 senior captain with Keewatin Air's Kivalliq Air division, providing scheduled air service to Canada's Arctic. On a typical day, he might fly from Winnipeg all the way to Repulse Bay, Nunavut, and back again. This distance is equivalent to flying

from Halifax to Vancouver in one day, but Craig's flight schedule also requires him to make 11 stops along the way.

Craig has surpassed 7,500 total flying hours – and with about 4,500 of these hours flown on the PC-12, he is one of the highest-time PC-12 pilots in the world.

Over the years, Delilah has had several interesting jobs, including office manager, dietary aide, and prison guard for the RCMP. At age 20 she worked for three months in the Texas office of Children's Haven International which operates a children's home in Mexico.

*If you are not currently supporting MAF on a regular basis and are considering how you can get involved, please consider supporting Craig and Delilah Borkowski.*

*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 Craig and Delilah Borkowski, 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.*

**To support the Borkowski family, or any other MAF missionary, simply send in the response card enclosed with your Life Link**

## Notes... from MAF supporters across Canada

**From M.T., PARKSVILLE, BC:** "This note is to encourage you in the work you are doing for the Lord. Don't give up! God cares. I know something of your many discouragements as I worked in missions for 30 years ... Now at age 78 and retired, I could not have wished for a more fulfilling life."

**From J.G., SCARBOROUGH, ON:** "Mom, at 103 years old, is still praying for all of you at MAF. Keep the prayer news coming!"

**From M.E., WALDHEIM, SK:** "I have been privileged to travel by MAF planes in many countries. As a Christian writer ... I depended on MAF to get me

from place to place. May God continue to bless your ministry."

**From E.K., KAMLOOPS, BC:** "The Lord bless you as you encourage workers to carry the torch for our Lord, and bring hope through *Life Link!* I keep the *Life Links* as they often open the door for folks who are interested ... I was a volunteer worker in Zaire where we enjoyed a well groomed but simple airstrip."

**From A.T., VICTORIA, BC:** "I always count it a privilege to join all of you in lifting up the workers and needs. I served... (with) SIM for quite a number of years and truly love missionaries."

**From J.S., NEW WESTMINSTER, BC:** "*Life Link* is such awesome reading. God at work always holds a form of 'only God could do that.' Each issue gets passed on to someone when the next colourful, action-packed issue reaches me... It's so thrilling to read of impossibilities becoming possibilities – and then being done!"

**From B.S., DUNCAN, BC:** "Ever since reading Nate Saint's biography as a child, MAF has interested and excited me ... I enjoy reading through *Life Link* and am so thankful and encouraged by the work done by your organization for God's glory."

## Angola update: churches involved as nation rebuilds



**Bibles ...** Canadian pilots Gary Goertzen, at far left, and Tim Smith with Angolan church leaders and 1,400 new Umbundu-language Bibles

**LUBANGO, Angola** – MAF Angola's monthly flight hours more than doubled in February as Angolan national churches re-entered areas that were difficult if not impossible to reach during the 27-year civil war that ended last year, reports Canadian MAF pilot Gary Goertzen.

Two trips that made up the bulk of the flying in February were for the Anglican Church and SIM (Serving in Mission).

The church flights allowed a group of church leaders to encourage congregations, ordain ministers and gather information on the current needs of the people of Angola.

"Our flights moved them from Lubango in the southwest to Huambo in the centre, then on to Uige in the north and back to Luanda. It is exciting to be a part of seeing God use people to reach out to those in need," says Gary.

Flights for SIM involved being in transit for a five-day stretch as this ministry compiled a video to illustrate the needs of Angolans. SIM comprises several long-time missions including Africa Evangelical Fellowship, Andes Evangelical Mission, International Christian Fellowship and the Sudan Interior Mission.

Gary Goertzen and his wife Tammy are from Kamloops, BC. With their three school-aged children, they have been living in Angola since August 2002 so that Gary can serve for one year as co-pilot on the Cessna Caravan C-GWOH "Wings of Hope."

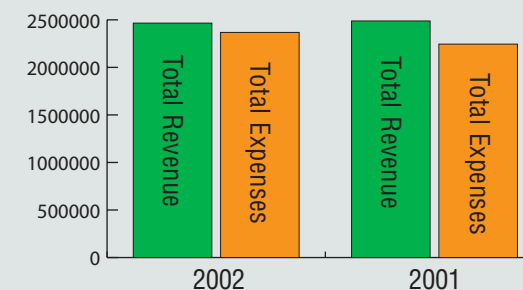
One flight saw Gary and pilot Tim Smith arriving at Luanda, the capital, to pick up 1,400 Umbundu-language Bibles for distribution in and around Lubango. The next day, Gary and Tim delivered a few boxes of these Bibles up to Mukwando, the runway in the volcanic crater. The Mukwando people were featured in September 2002 issue of *Life Link*.

"My flying continues to be both challenging and rewarding," says Gary. "Things are getting so busy that we just about can't fit in all the requests for flights. The church is working hard to find ways to help rebuild a country that recognizes it needs to be rebuilt spiritually as well as physically."

While Gary fulfills flight requests, Tammy helps out at an orphanage started by a Catholic sister who began with nothing but now cares for more than 60 girls with whatever food and supplies she can collect. Tammy and some friends teach the children songs and crafts, play games, and try to share Christ's love in as practical a way as they can.



## MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP of CANADA 2002 Annual Report



**Total Revenue \$2,465,566** (vs \$2,488,430 in 2001)  
**Total Expenses \$2,367,601** (vs \$2,244,784 in 2001)

See enclosed brochure for more details.

**Life Link** is a quarterly newsletter published by Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada and printed in Canada.

Editor: Claudia Van Riesen

MAF Canada is a registered Canadian charity able to issue receipts for income tax purposes. Registration Number 129942561 RR0001

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.



## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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.

### Please contact:

**Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada**  
264 Woodlawn Road West  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 1B6

You can also apply online at  
[www.mafc.org/apply.htm](http://www.mafc.org/apply.htm)

## Order your MAF Co-pilot Coffee kit!



An MAF Co-Pilot Coffee is a great way to promote the ministry of MAF to your family, friends or small church group. When you agree to host a meeting, you receive a free kit containing a simple step-by-step program, invitations, a party planner, an informative video and much more. The entire meeting is designed to take no longer than one hour!

To order your free Co-Pilot Coffee kit, please call us **toll free at 1.877.351.9344** or go online: [www.mafc.org/coffee.htm](http://www.mafc.org/coffee.htm).

As our gift to you for hosting a meeting, you'll receive a free stainless steel travel mug.



# PURPOSE PROMISE PROVISION...

## Join us as we celebrate 30 years of ministry

Join friends of MAF along with current and former missionaries at two special banquets – in Toronto and Red Deer, Alberta. Hear stories that celebrate our past and challenge us to prepare for our future.

### **Seating is limited. Order your tickets today!**

#### TORONTO

October 25, 2003 (6 p.m.)  
Regal Constellation Hotel  
900 Dixon Road  
Toronto, Ontario

**Guest speaker:** TV host Michael Coren  
**Music by:** singer/songwriter Kelita

#### RED DEER

November 8, 2003 (6 p.m.)  
Black Knight Inn  
2929 - 50th Avenue  
Red Deer, AB

**Music by:** recording artists Four Across

### **Tickets are \$30 each**

**Toronto table of 10 = \$300**

**Red Deer table of 8 = \$240**

Any tickets you purchase for guests other than yourself, your spouse or any dependent children will qualify for tax receipts.

*All funds raised will be directed towards the purchase of a new airplane for our expanding operation in Angola.*

**For details, contact us toll free at: 1.877.351.9344  
or go online: [www.mafc.org/banquets.htm](http://www.mafc.org/banquets.htm)**

**When you visit [www.mafc.org](http://www.mafc.org)... it's easy to give to MAF by using our secure 128-bit encrypted donation form.**