



LifeLink

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Teachers in Mission Aviation



If you pray for us, we hope you know you're a vital part of Mission Aviation Fellowship!

MAF was started after World War 2 by veteran pilots seeking to assist Christian outreach to the poor and needy.

Today, we have 149 aircraft based in 30 nations where travel by road or river routes can be difficult ... or dangerous.

Canada joined the MAF family in 1973 – and this year, we're celebrating our 30th anniversary.

Please celebrate with us at two special banquets. Details on back page.

NABIRE, Indonesia - Canadian teacher Marianne Vanderboom left a life she knew well to spend a year in one of the most remote parts of the world, where she knew life would be more difficult.

Born and raised in Burlington, Ontario, and educated at a teacher's college close by, Marianne taught for nine years at the same Christian school she attended as a child.

But on the day furloughing pilot Clarence Togeretz and his wife Jeanette visited her school to tell the children about Mission Aviation Fellowship, Marianne knew God was calling her out of her comfort zone – and into missionary service.

Clarence and Jeanette told about missionaries and national pastors who live deep inside the jungles of Indonesia's Papua province on New Guinea Island, reaching many who have never heard the Gospel.

In this part of the world, MAF flights save Christian workers countless hours of difficult and sometimes dangerous travel across vast swampland and mountainous terrain.

Marianne was disheartened to learn that the Togeretzes and two other families who live at the MAF flight base at Nabire, on Papua's northeastern coast, had not been able to find a teacher for their children.

"I knew instantly I had to go and help out. I fought with the Lord about it for over a week, but I knew what He was

telling me to do," she recalls.

Now as she looks back at the school year she was able to spend at Nabire, Marianne reflects:

"I learned a lot – about the Lord, about people, and the world in general. Most important was that I learned I can trust the Lord."

Marianne encourages more Canadian teachers to serve with MAF around the world, but offers one caution:

"If you're going into mission work



Track and field day ... From left to right, teaching assistant Annie Douglass, Marla Togeretz, Jasmine Togeretz, Brian Valley, Kevin Valley, Svenja Baumruck, teacher Marianne Vanderboom and Frauke Baumruck get ready to board the MAF Caravan for a school sports event in Sentani, Indonesia.

overseas to look for adventure, don't do it. You'll be miserable. But if the Lord is asking you to go, you'd better go!"

Marianne had only six children in her
continued inside...



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

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
– Matthew 9:38

Website: www.mafc.org



Floatplane arrives ... A young man reaches up to touch the wing of the MAF floatplane as it arrives at the river settlement of Etsi, Indonesia. The photo was taken by Canadian teacher Marianne Vanderboom.

Teachers in Mission Aviation ... Continued from front page

class at Nabire, compared with 24 back home in Burlington, but here she also faced the task of teaching five different grades each day.

Her capable teaching assistant was Annie Douglass, an American who grew up in Kenya as the daughter of missionaries.

“The six children were already good friends with each other, and close as a group,” Marianne says.

“We were like a family. Each one worked at his, or her, own pace. I facilitated. We got started one month late but we managed to complete a 10-month curriculum in nine months.”

Missionaries serving for a short term overseas have to make a quick transition to a new culture, with its unique sounds and smells.

“Nabire was definitely not a quiet country retreat, but a noisy, smelly place to live ...

“On hot days, there was the odor of fish and open sewers. At the pasar (market), the iron smell of blood pervaded the meat section.

“Radios were set to three notches past deafening. You’d hear the calls of ‘Hello, meester, I love you!’ and the cadence songs of the military as they jogged by.”

Marianne says any hardships related to overseas service tended to revolve around such things as missing family and friends, feeling singled out as a white person in a different

culture, and constantly encountering insects no matter how much you cleaned your house.



Aerial View ... MAF base at Nabire on the northern coast of Papua province, Indonesia

Sunday worship in an unknown language was also difficult, even though people were always warm and welcoming – and Clarence Togeretz gladly translated the sermons for her.



Making string ... As she sits in a pirau (dugout canoe), Ibu Karen shows teacher Marianne Vanderboom and students Marla and Jasmine Togeretz how to make string from the fibres of the genemo tree. Ibu is a term of address for married women which also means mother.

At the same time, the language difficulty allowed Marianne to experience firsthand that a smile is universal, and love for God can be communicated without words.

“As a result of my year in Indonesia, I have learned to follow God wherever He leads. God is a faithful father who always equips us to do the task he has called us to do,” says Marianne. “Although not directly involved in reaching the unreached for Christ, I was helping make that possible by freeing others to do their jobs more effectively. That was a good feeling.”

The Nabire school is one of the satellite schools of Hillcrest International School, started by Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1958. Today, the main school at Sentani has close to 200 children enrolled. Now back in Canada, Marianne Vanderboom is enrolled in a Bachelor of Religious Studies program at a college in southern Ontario. She hopes to go on to complete a Master of Divinity degree.

Papua marks 1939 arrival of Gospel

NABIRE, Indonesia – Canadian pilot Clarence Togeretz had the privilege of flying the governor of Indonesia’s Papua province to the village of Enarotali to dedicate a monument commemorating the arrival of the Gospel on New Guinea Island in 1939.

Several other air carriers provide flights to Enarotali, but Governor Yap Salosa, a Christian, chose MAF for this occasion.

Clarence flew the official and two panneloads of visitors to Enarotali in a nine-passenger Cessna Caravan. As Clarence explains, the flights allowed the governor to dedicate two different structures in one day:



Flight to Enarotali ... In photo above, MAF pilot Clarence Togeretz stands with Papua governor Yap Salosa and a Papuan man in ceremonial dress. At right, dancers greet the governor and his entourage.

“The first was the opening of a brand new telephone service in this mountain village, an event that certainly marks the calendars, because it’s very unusual for an interior station to have Telkom phone service.

“After that, Mr. Salosa (we call him Bapak Salosa or Bapak Gubernur) helped the church dedicate the

monument erected to commemorate the arrival of the Gospel.”

Following the ceremonial dress dancing and singing that greeted the governor and his entourage upon arrival, hundreds of people walked together to the dedication site where a



Gospel message was preached and praises sung.

Clarence stayed back with the aircraft because some people kept trying to climb up and into it.

“From about a half mile away, I could hear the singing and then the loudspeaker bringing God’s message to the people.”

Enarotali was opened as a Dutch government post in 1938. In January 1939, Russell Deibler of Christian and Missionary Alliance (CAMA) trekked 18 days through the highlands to Enarotali to claim the territory for Jesus Christ.

During World War 2, Russell and his wife Darlene were taken prisoner by the Japanese army.

He died in captivity, but she survived three years in a prison camp, including one year of solitary confinement. Darlene’s story is told in the 1988 book, *Evidence Not Seen* (Harper and Row Publishers Inc.).

CAMA is one of many ministries MAF has served through the decades since the first MAF flights began on New Guinea Island after World War 2.

Clarence Togeretz serves as assistant chief pilot for the MAF Papua flying program, with its 10 Cessna 206 aircraft and four Caravans. In 2002, he surpassed 4,000 hours of safe flying. He and his wife Jeanette are from Burlington, Ontario, and started MAF service in 1994. They have three children.

Angola: emerging from war

By MAF pilot Gary Goertzen

LUBANGO, Angola – Angola has suffered greatly through the years, and evidence of this faces us on a daily basis as we see orphans, amputees, sickness and disease, ruined buildings, terrible roads, destroyed bridges, and a general lack of drinking water and sanitation.

Sometimes the scenes are so desperate, with suffering so much a part of life here, that we wonder how we can ever make a difference. The needs are so great.

It was as I was struggling with these thoughts that MAF Angola's chief pilot Tim Smith and I were able to go on an extended trip into the interior with a film crew from SIM (Serving in Mission), a national pastor and some SIM missionaries.

Departing from Lubango, we spent two nights in Menongue in southeastern Angola and a day in Kuito in the central plateau before flying on to Luanda, the capital.

Menongue, situated more than 1,000 km from Luanda, was one of the cities cut off from the rest of the country by rebel activity in the 1975-2002 civil war. My initial thought as we landed in Menongue was, "We will see more brokenness and despair."

But the Lord is gracious and He began to allow me to see His grace and power at work in a country that seems so devoid of hope. Here are three examples:

1/ We toured through a medical clinic, a Bible school and a camp for internally displaced people, all run by the Union of Evangelical Churches of Angola.

Even though these Christians barely have the resources to take care of themselves, they are reaching out to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their countrymen.

2/ Our next stop included a visit with Jorge Biwango, the governor of Kuando Kubango, the province of which Menongue is the capital. He explained to us that although the physical needs of the people are great, their greatest need is to have their hearts healed.

He said his government was willing to supply whatever it could to help missionaries spread the Gospel in his province.

One man with one Bible ... With his worn Bible in tow, this Angolan pastor travels on foot to serve 750 people in four congregations.



Kuito ruins ... Once rather grand, but now bullet-ridden and crumbling, buildings in the city of Kuito show the physical scars of Angola's long civil war.

3/ The following day we flew to Kuito, which was the scene of the heaviest urban fighting of the long war.

Almost every building is scarred in some manner by gunfire. The stories of pain and suffering are tragic and it is difficult to fathom what these people have seen and experienced.

At one of the churches, we met a national pastor who had traveled in from the countryside for some medical treatment. It was a brief encounter, maybe five minutes at the most, but in that time I learned that God takes care of His people in trying times in simple ways.

The pastor was the shepherd of four congregations in four different villages totaling 750 people. He ministered by traveling on foot to each one of them, with his one Bible in hand.

These congregations did not have one Bible per person, nor one Bible per family, not even one Bible per congregation, but one Bible for one pastor shepherding 750 people!

The Bible is worn and tattered from the countless times it has been opened to share the Gospel, a word of encouragement or counsel. It shows God's love projected through a man who is taking His word to his people, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

I thank the Lord that he has allowed me to catch a glimpse of – and be a small part of – His healing work in Angola. I have seen how He is using His people to accomplish the extraordinary.

Gary Goertzen, his wife Tammy and their three children lived in Angola for one year while Gary helped out as co-pilot on the Cessna Caravan "Wings of Hope" based at Lubango. They are from Kamloops, British Columbia.



Goertzen family ... From left to right, Gary, Matthew, Tammy, Kaitlin and Joshua

Gary reports that MAF has resumed flying into the former rebel stronghold of Bailundo as aid organizations move in to help the people there. He was able to tour a field hospital operated by Médecins Sans Frontières, a seed distribution project operated by World Vision and a relocation camp set up for former rebel fighters.

Meanwhile, MAF is continuing twice-weekly flights into Caconda and Chipindo to deliver food, medicine and aid workers to the refugee camps in those areas.

New uprisings in eastern Congo

Over eight days, MAF provides 47 rescue flights

BUNIA, Democratic Republic of Congo – When Bunia came under attack by ethnic militia in May, and thousands of civilians fled to the airport for safety, MAF provided evacuation flights for almost 2,000 people.

Among those rescued were 200 Bible School students who needed the protection of a United Nations contingent to reach the airport.

The UN had 750 peacekeepers from Uruguay stationed in Bunia to shield civilians, but they found themselves greatly outnumbered as rampaging warriors linked to the Hema and Lendu tribes killed and looted indiscriminately.

With peacekeepers able to hold the airport, five MAF pilots made 47 flights out over eight days, using Cessna 206, Caravan and Pilatus PC-12 aircraft.

The pilots handling these flights were Aarno Alanne, Dave Jacobsson, William Nicol, Gerrit Pap and Roland Sedlmeier. They came in from MAF bases in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, and also from AIM (Africa Inland Mission) Air.

During the conflict, Donna Jacobsson, Dave's wife, reported: "Rogue soldiers from both sides of the conflict hunt and kill anyone from their enemy tribe – women, children, men, elders. People are completely exhausted without food and water. Today, there are beginning reports of cholera.

"The planes are flying people out at capacity and then returning to Bunia with food and aid supplies..."



Evacuation flight ... People fleeing a violent uprising wait for an MAF flight out of Bunia.

"This massive effort works only by God's grace. The circumstances continue to be horrifying in Bunia, but we're thankful for the opportunity to move so many people to safety."

With only 10 minutes on the ground each time for loading, ground staff had to work quickly to make essential weight calculations, enabling the maximum number of people on each flight.

Please pray for this part of the world where so many have lost their lives!

More than 500 people were killed in the Bunia massacres during May.

Bunia is located in Ituri province, an area rich with gold deposits, timber reserves and fertile land.

Recent violence in this region, including the attack on the Nyankunde mission station (noted in *Life Link*, December 2002 issue), has killed an estimated 60,000 people. Half a million people have fled from their homes.



Arou airstrip ... MAF flights serve thousands of small airstrips worldwide, including this new one in Papua New Guinea. At right, pilot Lowell Deering represents MAF at the opening.



PNG airstrip opens after 19 years

AROU, Papua New Guinea – After working 19 years to complete an airstrip for their community, the people of Arou were finally able to celebrate the airstrip's official opening.

Canadian pilot Lowell Deering, a Twin Otter captain who serves as MAF's chief pilot in Papua New Guinea, was among those who represented MAF at the opening in October 2002. He had the honour of cutting the flower ribbon and officially declaring the strip open.

A ladies' church choir and a traditional men's dancing group greeted visitors as they arrived. Later, vegetables and fruit, arrows, axes, raw pig meat and disembowelled parrots were presented by Arou residents as gifts of appreciation.

Located in PNG's central highlands, Arou has a population of 6,000 served by a church, medical clinic and a school for children up to Grade 8.

On the day of the airstrip opening, the Grade 6-8 students received a guided tour of the aircraft.

Later in the day, when the Twin Otter returned to base, the flight served as a medivac for two hospital patients needing to be transported to Mount Hagen. Without the

new airstrip, the two would have had to be carried on stretchers for the five-hour overland trek to the next closest airstrip.

People in small settlements are motivated to build airstrips because they help their communities attract school teachers, medical services and economic development.



Dancers ... The letters "MAF" are included in the costume worn by one of the traditional dancers at Arou.

May we introduce... the Deering family

Lowell Deering is Mission Aviation Fellowship's chief pilot in Papua New Guinea, the nation that comprises the eastern half of the Island of New Guinea plus more than 600 smaller islands.

Since joining MAF in 1988, Lowell has piloted almost 23,000 flights to provide service to remote PNG communities or train new pilots for MAF ministry.

As chief pilot, he oversees all of the pilots and ground staff who keep MAF-PNG's fleet of 15 aircraft serving more than 400 airstrips. He also conducts advanced pilot training on Twin Otter aircraft.

Lowell was born in Calgary, Alberta, but spent many of his growing-up years in the Toronto area. After graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, he worked in Calgary for three years in aircraft maintenance and overhaul.

He and Gail were married in November 1987 and began field service with MAF the following January.

Gail was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, but grew up in Calgary. She graduated from the University of Calgary in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

Over the years, Gail has shown hospitality to hundreds of MAF guests and has made 12 different houses "home" for her family as the Deerings moved from base to base within PNG.

Gail also home schools sons Caleb, born in 1993, and Tobin, born in 1995. She has taught religious education in several schools and assists her husband with administrative tasks.

This Bible verse holds special significance for the Deerings: "Stand firm. Give yourselves fully to the Lord's work, because your labour is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

The verse was presented to them at the end of their first PNG posting in Telefomin by the local church as a thank you for their service to the people over a difficult period.

If you are not currently supporting MAF on a regular basis and are considering how you can get involved, please consider supporting Lowell and Gail Deering.

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 Lowell and Gail Deering, 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.*



Deering family ... Lowell and Gail with sons Caleb and Tobin



Harvest time

As we look at world events unfolding around us, we can wonder if the harvest of the earth is not far off.

We find ourselves encountering diseases (AIDS, SARS, mad cow) unknown a generation ago. We see millions suffering from famine and ongoing tribal battles in Africa, while violence continues in the Middle East and on our own streets.

At the same time, an economic downturn has affected Wall Street and Bay Street. We see our resources being depleted and wonder if we will have enough to live on when we retire.

This year's events have caused many of us to focus on ourselves and on our own problems, especially as they relate to finances, health and safety.

The challenge for us is to refocus on the Lord Jesus Christ and to remember what His focus was.

In John 4:35, Jesus made his focus quite clear. He told his disciples: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

I'm sure that life in those days was not without its concerns of disease, famine, ethnic factions and financial stress.

God does not want us to focus on ourselves. He wants us to give our lives to others who are waiting to receive the love, compassion and truth of Jesus Christ.

As summertime in Canada comes to an end, many of our MAF partners are preparing for harvest. At harvest time, there is always a deeply felt sense of anticipation. To realize the fruits of one's labour, the sense of accomplishment, the culmination of all the methods...

There is the anxiety of the weather, but once the harvest is in, what a relief, what joy! So it must be with God's harvest. "Therefore thou shalt surely rejoice," we read in Deuteronomy 16:15.

At MAF we are privileged to work with people who are called by God and willing to work in His harvest fields.

In this issue of our **Life Link** newsletter, you can read not only about the work of our pilots and ground crew, but also our school teachers.

Please let your friends and family know that we need more teachers at this time. Teachers provide a vital support for our overseas families, allowing them to be productive in the harvest fields as they continue MAF flight operations.

"For the harvest of the earth is ripe." (Revelation 14:15)

Together with you in His Service,

Ron Epp

Ron Epp
Executive Director
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada



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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.

Notes...

A month of flying for Gideon outreach

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar – MAF pilot Fredrik Wågbrant handled a month of flying for David Pankar of Gideons International. David's goal was to visit all Gideons groups in the north of Madagascar, encouraging, challenging and teaching in schools, prisons and hospitals. This was David's final visit to Madagascar, having flown with MAF twice a year since 1997.

Baby in Mongolia flown to hospital

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia – MAF affiliate Blue Sky Aviation received news of a 14-month-old baby in Bayanolgii in need of urgent medical care.

The daughter of U.S. missionaries who work among the Kazakh people had suspected pneumonia. Pilot Janne Ropponen collected the doctor, the baby and her mother, and brought the three to a children's hospital where the baby successfully recovered.

Helping the blind in Chad

N'DJAMENA, Chad – Canadian MAF pilot Calvin Hildebrandt flew a team from Christian Blind Mission to monitor the mission's programs in Chad.

In Garoua, they visited a project that helps disabled people become self-sufficient through small business. From there, Calvin flew the team to eye clinics and hospitals in Nguandongere, Maroua and Koumra.

Blindness in adults severely disrupts families as employment income is lost and children drop out of school so that they can help their families survive. Children in Chad are often seen leading their blind parents through the towns to beg for money.

Care for Uganda's abducted children

GULU, Uganda – Pilot Gerrit Pap flew a World Vision staff member to Gulu where the organization provides care for abducted children after their escape or release from the rebel group that calls itself the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

A staff member told of a 10-year-old boy who had his fingers, top lip and ears cut off while with the LRA.

The LRA has abducted an estimated 20,000 children during its 16-year conflict with the Ugandan government. It brutally beats the children, and then forces them into slavery.



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

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.

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 Ontario and Alberta. Hear stories that celebrate our past and challenge us to prepare for our future.

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

ONTARIO (NEW LOCATION*)

October 25, 2003 (6 p.m.)

Crossroads Centre
1295 North Service Road
Burlington, Ontario

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

ALBERTA

November 8, 2003 (6 p.m.)

Black Knight Inn
2929 – 50th Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta

Music by: recording artists Four Across

Tickets are \$30 each

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**

*Because the Regal Constellation Hotel in Toronto suspended operations in July, we had to relocate our banquet. Crossroads Centre is located at the junction of Highway 403 and the QEW. We apologize for any inconvenience this change has caused.

When you visit www.mafc.org... it's easy to give to MAF by using our secure 128-bit encrypted donation form.