

MAF NEWS

The last couple of weeks of April were extremely busy, covering a couple of days extra flying when another pilot was ill, and also preparing for the audit that was mentioned last month. Hopefully all the work for the audit paid off as Michael has not heard of any problems being found.

The Cessna Caravan is scheduled to arrive later this month and training to start soon afterwards. A Canadian MAF pilot who has flown in Papua, the Indonesian part of the island of New Guinea will be coming to train three of our pilots on the aircraft and to assess its operation into different airstrips.

All the visas for new staff have now been issued, including the one outstanding for a new engineer. A third new engineer arrived in Mt Hagen last week. This week he is joining a six week orientation course run by Wycliffe Bible Translators, a "first" for one of our new staff. Nicki completed the third successive language and orientation course for new arrivals just before we set off on our travels. We are thankful for the timing of the WBT course, which avoids having to wait until our return in July.

Our travel arrangements back to the UK were adapted to allow Michael to stop in Cairns for a meeting, and then while we were in America, to go to Spokane in Washington to represent MAF Asia Pacific at an international mission aviation conference. This did shorten the time available to catch up with friends in the Carolinas, but was too good an opportunity to miss while we were in the two countries.

We have appreciated enormously the hospitality and generosity of friends as we've travelled through North and South Carolina. Not for the first time we have been reminded of how deep the roots were that we put down when we lived there during Michael's flight training sixteen years ago. It has been really good to catch up with friends and supporters and we wish that we could have stayed longer than our tight schedule allowed.

FAMILY NEWS

We have proved ourselves to be typical grandparents. Gabriel is a wonderful little lad, a joy to us and an even greater joy (if that is possible!) to Andrew and Querida. The week we spent with them passed too quickly, inevitably, but they will visit the UK in June so that great grandparents, uncles and aunts and anybody else who's passing can admire him.

A big answer to prayer was completion on their house just three days before we arrived. As their first guests we enjoyed being around as they settled in. They are delighted with their new home.

Richard is still exploring different job options, so please pray for the Lord to guide him.

Peter's final practical and oral examinations are during the middle of this month. These are the final hurdle and, all being well, we are looking forward to being at the graduation ceremony in July shortly before our return to PNG.



Philip's work experience year is in its final couple of months, so very soon he will have get used to studying again, working towards his own final exams next year.

As well as family holiday, our time in the UK will be spent catching up with friends and supporters whom we didn't see last year. Also, we'll both be carrying on some of our responsibilities from PNG; e-mail and Skype make things possible that would have been impossible only a few years ago.

PRAISE & PRAYER

- Give thanks for the new staff who have arrived since the end of January. Pray for them as they continue to build friendships and make progress with their Tok Pisin.
- As we have asked every month recently, please also pray for engineers and managers to work in the PNG programme.
- Please pray that we will balance our time well while we are home in the UK, between rest, family, catching up with friends and MAF work from PNG.
- Give thanks for the completion on Andrew's and Querida's house.
- Please continue to pray for Richard as looks for jobs and tries to find out what really suits him and his aspirations.
- Pray for Peter during his exams, and Philip as he begins to move back into study, rather than work, mode.

Thank you for your prayers. Why there is still such a shortage of staff when so many people are praying remains a mystery, but we know God is faithful and that He will provide for us and guide us even when we don't understand exactly what He is doing. Please continue to pray!

With our best wishes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Michael & Nicki