

It's been a busy time! So thanks for holding me up in prayer.

The most colourful event was

### MAF celebration of 60 years in PNG.

Sadly the first MAF plane to PNG crashed, but thankfully they did not give up. Many more planes and pilots followed, and there are now 300 airstrips in PNG where MAF land.

A team of 10 people visited 6 different airstrips.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** was Rumginae's opportunity to celebrate 60 years of MAF faithfully supporting remote communities.



As the guests arrived on the twin otter, the ladies - traditionally dressed in grass skirts, mud, and not much else - enacted a drama of how it was when the first ever plane arrived at Rumginae. They ran, and hid behind each other, and what trees they could find, chattering nervously and excitedly to each other – wondering what this noisy bird from the sky could be. Finally they plucked up courage to come close to the plane, to circle it, touch it – some even ventured inside. This was what really happened.

The youth sang “*Welcome, welcome to Rumginae, we are happy to have you here*” Dancing ladies, with cassowary headdresses and grass skirts bobbing, led the guests down the path to the grand stand built for the occasion. More singers welcomed the guests with a song composed about the opening of our airstrip in 1958 and arrival of the first plane.

The youth enacted a medical evacuation scenario showing MAF saving the life of a snake bitten patient. A model plane flew on a stick as the patient was carried behind – accompanied by lots of laughter, and vomit bucket!

The evening concert by Steve Grace, an Australian singer, and testimonies by other team members, were much appreciated as people packed into the church and overflowed outside.

It was a fun day – and great to see the community working together and appreciating MAF. Most of all it was great to see the **focus on Jesus** - and how everything is because of Him.



**DTE graduation** was encouraging. 50 people received certificates for completing part 1, 2 or 3 of a discipleship programme. I had the privilege of presenting some certificates and of making a short speech – in which I encouraged men to also start these studies. I wore a cassowary headdress for the occasion (sorry no grass skirt). They were very thankful for your support. 22 have signed up to continue with the next part of the course.

Thanks for praying for **Rural Training Courses**. God helped me through a busy and somewhat disorganised time at Drimdamesuk.

People were challenged especially about their

relationships with each other. Pray they will take action and put things right.

At Rumginae – as predicted Steven had a rather tough time with the ladies who did not want to be corrected with God's Word. They think I targeted them with the teaching in the book! God's Word is sharp like a two edged sword - and that is not always very comfortable. Pray they will humble themselves and submit.

Please pray for the final 2 courses – Lake Murray and Yongkom districts **October 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**.

Pray that these courses will be life changing. The books have sold well – so I will soon have to consider a reprint.

**Preaching Club** went well with 6 people attending and seeming very interested. We'll see if they do their homework and come back on **October 4<sup>th</sup>**! We are studying Job – not the easiest to start with – but full of important teaching for this culture.

**Youth Group** is encouraging with 24 young ladies and few less boys participating in the talks on relationships. I am encouraged with the male leaders who seem to be doing well with something new. Please keep praying as we get on to more details and start talking about sex outside of marriage. Sadly I heard today of yet another teenage pregnancy – so these lessons are much needed. October dates are **7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Please especially pray for the big **Youth Convention 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** at Kiunga. Sadly the main speaker did not teach the truth or use God's Word last time I heard him speak. He was however very good at hyping people up! The other speaker we found has only been given 2 sessions. Pray that God will overrule, that God's Word WILL be preached, and that it will be used for His glory. I have felt strongly about this as it is such a great opportunity. What a travesty to feed them false teaching!!! Pray that the leaders will learn many things and be able in future to work together and do things in the right way.

I hope to send a good book/DVD stall so they can take away something to build them up.

I plan to attend (DV) the **Western Province Conference** from about the **23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>** (that's the shortest I can hope for!) It's a long flight away in a remote place. So hope not to spend too many extra days there! Weather is not very good at the moment and pilots are thin on the ground (and in the air!). It should be a good networking opportunity, and time to connect with church leaders from the whole area. I hope to take a substantial bookstall – but that will depend on freight available with MAF. It will be a long week with days full of meetings with plenty talking – often without much conclusion. It'd be great if this time it is different and we are able to make some decisions about how to take the church forward and help with the many problems that pervade.



**Philippians bible studies** with the women leaders continue on well - **September 15<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

I am reading the bible (James) each week with one of the staff – which is so encouraging. It's lovely to hear her talk about how when she feels hurt, instead of getting angry, she goes to her room and prays, coming back when she has peace. When she is tired at work, she goes off and prays and gets strength. People are commenting on her looking and being different. She has a light and peace about her that is new. Pray for continuing opportunities to witness at work and at home. Her husband and brothers are not believers.

September 16th is Independence Day – so full of games and other activities. Maybe time for a day at home...

*“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let them say among the nations, ‘the Lord reigns’.*

*Let the sea resound and all that is in it.*

*Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them.*

*Then the trees of the forest will sing, they will sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth.*

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures for ever.”* 1 Chronicles 16: 31- 33