



July 2011

... NewsLetter 39



'God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob'.

Exodus 2:24

SAR (Search and Rescue)

On a Sunday morning at 6:31 AM we got a message: There is a missing boat with 18 people on board, could you help us look for it? This is something MAF can help with so we said 'yes'. We tried to gather information about as many things as possible: the route, the color of the boat, pictures of the boat and the people on board, etc. Also we had to find out who had to pay for this flight and what we should do when we find something. We took a native fisherman with us who knows the area very well. And two and a half hours later we were in the air with three pilots and the fisherman. The boat is now missed 24 hours... My job was to do the communication. We feared something very bad had happened, because there was bad weather that night. The waves can be 25 to 50 feet tall and there are dangerous coral reefs and dangerous currents in that area... Then, somebody received an SMS from one of the boat passengers! They had decided to do an unplanned overnight on an island, but had no means of communicating that information. Upon receiving that piece of information we returned home. So our SAR turned into Search and Return!



Slippery market

With boots on to the market??? Have you done it??? While bending down I walk through the low roofs. 'Selamat ibu, ada jeruk bali?' Tomatoes? Potatoes? And the warnings we many: 'watch out for your head, miss!' Sometimes there is a surprise like very good fruit that is also very rare. Meanwhile I look down to see where I walk. Because there is a big mess: trash mixed with mud. Before leaving for the market I saw a rainstorm closing in. And if it rains at the market, it is very very unpleasant to walk there, especially at the Papua area where there are no roofs. The Indonesian and the Papua area are pretty much separated. Not fun... but that's the way it goes here. When I went

to the market (which I love to do!), later, I hear my helper talk about what time I went and came. So you're not unnoticed. I make sure where I buy: half at the richer Indonesian side and the other half at the poorer Papuan side. That's how you keep it even. Hanne came with me and brought her doll and I put it in my bag. They thought it was a real baby because the size is not much different from there baby's!

No school

Our summer break has started once again. So there is no school: not having to get out of bed at the right time! And I hear calls like 'mom what can we go do' or 'mom can we go to the beach?' or 'I think its time to go to the river'.

Yearly MAF Papua family conference

There are a lot of airplanes flying from and to Pyramid. There are more than a hundred people that have to be flown in for the MAF Papua conference in Pyramid, a place in the Wamena area, at about 5,000 feet above sea level. It's like camping in a minicabin, and in the middle of the terrain is a big building where everything happens: eating, meetings, biblestudy's and just having fun with each other. Every year there is a group from the New Heights Church coming to do VBS with the children, activities with the youth and there is a pastor that does the Biblestudies with the grown-ups. The



The new Kodiak in Nabire

food is taken care of by a special team. It was a wonderful week. We all very much enjoyed it. It is a very nice climate over there. We had a really cool experience: Pieter's sister and her family was able to come over too. They hope to live in Wamena to serve the Papuan people with the Oikonomos foundation.

Nabire

Meanwhile it's getting busy on the MAF Nabire base. There are two new families' now. This means that we have 4 pilot-mechanics. At the moment we are the only



MAF Papua base that has three different airplanes in the air. Which are: the Cessna 208 Grand Caravan, the Quest Kodiak 100 and the Cessna 206 Stationair. Pieter flies this last one: a very handy machine that can go to pretty much any airstrip. About two months now we've had our 'own' Nabire Kodiak. Pieter went with Nathan (our Kodiak pilot) to help in getting to know the area:

mountains, passes, bad weather short-cuts, etc. are. It will not take long before all the MAF Papua Cessna 206 airplanes will be back to the States and replaced for Kodiak's. At the moment there are still 6 206 airplanes left in Papua. After our furlough the special fuel (avgas) will be finished and Pieters airplane will not be in Nabire anymore. So there is some more training waiting for Pieter. Will it be Caravan or Kodiak? That is not known as of now.

MAF-pilots and mechanics work all over the world where their flying-help is needed in mission & country development. We are serving with MAF as a pilot/mechanic in Papua, Indonesia.



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Thank you!

Furlough

Yes, our furlough is coming close! In October we will leave for 10 weeks to the Netherlands. The children can experience the local school life again and there are lots of presentations to do in churches and other places. Besides that we will try to rest. Our return trip is scheduled for January the third.

And more...

We've had some rough times. While we ran the Nabire base for two months by ourselves we've done a lot. Three houses had to be prepared for living for new families. Also one side of the schoolbuilding had to be transformed into a house. Natalja, our volunteer teacher lives there now. While we had a vacation week-end in Daboto we heard that one of our native workers was killed together with her husband in a local airline plane crash. It took a lot of wisdom and cultural insight to deal with this situation. Not in the last place because of the fact that her brother

works for us too. Ibu Merry worked here as our finance person for almost 12 years. She and her husband were both active believers and they left behind an eight month old child.



On a Sunday there was a lightning strike 100 feet in front of our house. It was exactly at the place where we keep the special fuel. At that moment we were outside and saw it happening. That night we had fire in our main base circuit breaker panel. So we did not have electricity. Also, our water system did not work because the pipe sheared because of the lightning strike. It took us six weeks to get everything back in order.

There were pilots from other bases to help with flight requests, which also meant we hosted them. And our house helper had knee problems so she could not come, but fortunately there were two other girls that wanted to help. And Hanne got Malaria too. Pieter had a very strong virus. He was very tired and had a cold with a throat-, sinus- and ear infection. Right now he is very happy to be able to fly again. During this time we felt like God was there, just as we were stretched to the limits it is true that God teaches us. We are very blessed to have the Richards back from furlough! The honor to Him!

Pieter&Anja van Dijk, Tjeerd, Janieke, Harm, Hanne and Tom

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