

Woodington's Down Under



Joy for 2009 from the mission field of East ARNHEM Land, Australia

Paul has flown 1,300 mission flights transporting medical workers, dentists, builders, rangers, teaching staff, ministers, medical evacuations, homeland outreach and many, many Yolngu.

One Year Anniversary

Happy new year and belated Christmas greetings. This newsletter marks the end of our first year in Arnhem Land with MAF, a year full of ups and downs.

The saddest moment was the loss of our dear friend and pilot colleague Hadleigh who I have known since Bible College. His plane ditched at sea,



circumstances unknown, and as yet we have not found him or the plane despite many efforts.

The highlight for this year has to be the

establishment of the Homeland Outreach. The team fly out to three and now four homelands on the third Sunday in each month. Over Christmas we spent two overnight stays in the



homelands taking music, the Nativity film and the gospel in what turned out to be a tough four day effort, but we were well pleased. We preached and shared the gospel with somewhere near 200 Yolngu at five different events.

Imogen came as part of the team. She has learnt to play her Piano this year, which

she specially bought along for the outreach.

Kiri returned to Melbourne half way through the year to finish off her studies at an Anglican boarding school which recognized our mission.

Clare helped out at the Yirrkala school for the first half of the year and at the Christian school for the second half.

Aaron received the Citizenship of the year award from the local councilor.

Jan Moved into MAF house

Feb 1st MAF Flight delivering radio

Mar Family adopted into Wundawuy

Apr Funeral of Dr Marika, famous Aboriginal in Yirrkala

May Wet Season fishing underway

Jun El cho Island Bible Dedication

Jul Holiday in Darwin

Aug Clare's mum and sister visit

Sep Paul's parents arrive, and 1st Homeland Outreach goes out

Oct Pilot Hadleigh lost at sea

Nov Normal flying operations resume after great loss

Dec Homeland Mission overnight Christmas special

Finance and Homeland Outreach Goal

We thank God for all the support we have received from you over the last twelve months. It is truly remarkable.

With the Homeland Outreach underway, the demand for the Gospel is huge. We are under pressure to send a second team out each month to the remaining

Laynha homelands. We have made this is our goal for 2009. MAF pay a huge part in the cost of flights, the remainder come from you and the small OASIS Christian assembly in Nhulunbuy, lead by Pastor Phil and his wife Eleanor, who have become special friends of ours in Christ.

In the last four months we can already see God moving peoples hearts in the homelands. At Yilpara, Yolngu assembled for praise and worship three times on their own over Christmas before the Outreach team came to give a fresh Gospel message.



Happy New Year. Thanks for your support.

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Santa makes a flying visit to
the homelands



Paul, Clare and the Woodington Family

Paul and Clare brought their family over from Hertfordshire, England to the Bible College of Victoria for flight training on the Mission Aviation Course. In the UK Paul spent 30 years in IT as a development engineer in areas including medicine, retail, and finance. Clare worked for 25 years as a Nurse working in care of the elderly and in the surgical ward of the Lister Hospital.

Brought up in Bristol, Paul met Clare, a Lincolnshire girl, in Richmond, England. After coming to Christ together, they were married in 1990. God has blessed them with two older Girls, Kiri and Imogen, and two younger boys, Aaron and Tristan.

Paul and Clare have many life experiences, which they believe God gave them for their future in mission work.

Our prayer is for God to continue blessing our family; developing our talents and gifts for the job the Lord has given us to do,

wherever that may be serving Christ
through the works of MAF.



CONGRATULATIONS

Kiri for passing her driving test at only 16
years of age.



Life in Arnhem Land

Its **HOT, HOT, HOT**, all year around. The day starts with a shower from the cold tap — cold being about 26°C. After drying off you are wet again.

We all leave the house at 7:30 in the morning. The school bus arrives outside, same time as does the **MAF van**.

At the MAF hanger we have **devotions** before getting the aircraft ready for flight and first passengers at 8:30am.

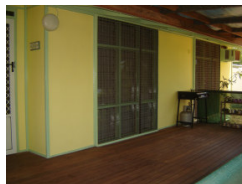
It's great to get airborne and out into the homelands where I have my first **coffee and banana break** at 9:15am.

After an average of 7-10 flights, we are on the ground at last light, around 6pm and home for 6:30pm.

Food is an issue. Its expensive and very little choice, although at Gove we fair better than in the other communities. Everything comes in on a barge, including fuel, which is 40% more expensive.

Our **MAF house** is now home af-

ter making several improve-

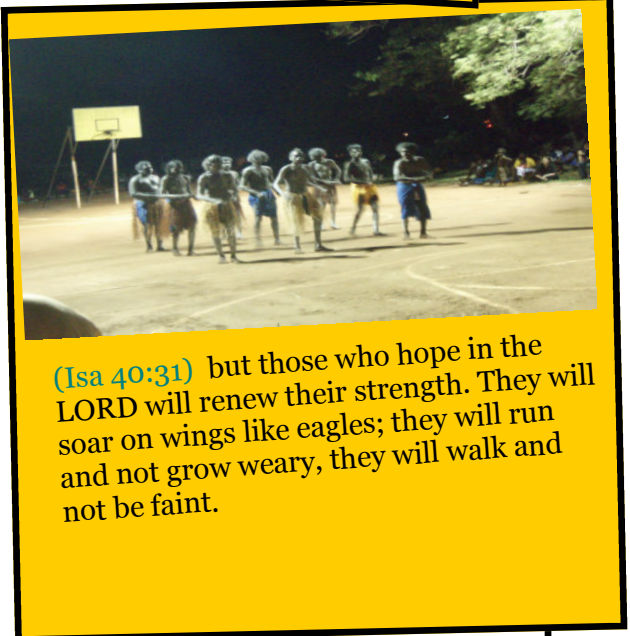


ments. **Thanks' dad** for painting the front this year—it's what a holiday is for, right?

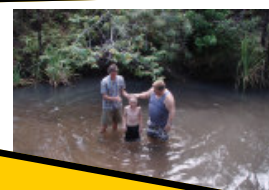
Living remotely, almost 1300km from nearest town, makes everyone want to get away at least once during the year.

We are settling down and looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2009.

Love and God Bless —Paul, Clare, Kiri, Imogen, Aaron and Tristan



(Isa 40:31) but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



Congratulations to Aaron and Tristan who gave their lives to the Lord this year

Little Chef Immy has started holiday work as a chef in the only coffee shop in Nhulunbuy

