



WOODINGTONS - DOWN UNDER

MARCH 2007

Hi All, we have been really excited recently when MAF asked us to apply for a position with them. As you know we are God led and our faith in Him has brought us this far. We have been frantically getting together the application for a candidate's selection committee, which will be meeting at the end of May. The application has required full medicals (see Tristan to the right having his blood test), a psychological test and interview, a behavioural interview and a resubmission from all our referees. Nevertheless, the application is in and we wait for the outcome. Please pray that the committee listens to God and the path will be clear for His will to be done. MAF usually does not take pilots over 35 years old, but the Lord has put it on their hearts to make an exception.



As new candidates are entering the service of MAF, some old timers are retiring – not that one ever retires from MAF. To the left are Winston and Ruth Usher. Here we are attending their 40th celebration of their ministry with MAF. Winston is an MAF Pilot and the family has served in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Borneo, Australia and Cambodia. They have been a great source of encouragement for us. Winston's Cambodian Cessna 206 Missionary Plane is now in the Mission Aviation Centre here in

Melbourne. Next weekend Clare and I will fly the same 206 to King Island, half way to Tasmania, on a night instrument flight with some friends who have really helped us here in Melbourne.

Opposite is the training fleet with the MAF Cessna 206 in the front and two Cessna 172s, one of which belongs to JAARS – the flying arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators. In the left of the picture is Yong, a Pilot in PNG and now finishing off his engineering training. To the right is Ben – and engineering student, who has been our first and best friend here in Australia. Paul is now coming to the end of his flight training. This year has been busy with the completion of his Commercial Licence, Command Instrument Rating and Advanced Flying Course, which included mountain ridge, valley and even landing on the side of a mountain. Next week he starts his Instructors Rating.



To help build flight hours, Paul has been flying a Cessna 206 for the Commando Skydivers in Tooradin, Melbourne.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12:2



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Both Clare and Paul have been at Bible College this year. The Bible studies will finish in November. The plan with MAF will be for a family position near Gove airport in Arnhem Land, Northern Territories, Australia.

We will be located at either Nhulunbuy or Yirrkala. The nearest major airport is Darwin. The nearest major road is two days drive away, in a four by four vehicle, needing to cross two rivers on route and one bush camp stop, thus the need for small aircraft. The Northern Territories is an Aboriginal area and we will, God willing, be living in an Aboriginal community.

On June 24th will be making a frantic 3 week



visit to the UK. This includes a trip to Lincoln – Clare's hometown, Tewin, Chorleywood and Bristol where Paul's parents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We will be at the Welwyn Garden City Baptist Church, Sunday 1st July in the morning and would love to see you all there. This is a great weekend. Not only will we be celebrating our first visit to our Church since we departed for Australia in 2005, but it is also our 17th Wedding Anniversary and MAF's 60th Anniversary to the day!

The Children have really settled here in Australia. They go to an excellent Christian School, MECS, which seems to spend a significant proportion of its education program out side! Kiri has recently returned from a three-week trip though central Australia. She beat us to the Northern Territories. Whilst there, she bonded with one of the boys who is now her first boyfriend!! Our boys have joined the Cubs and Scouts. Last weekend we joined a family scouting weekend.

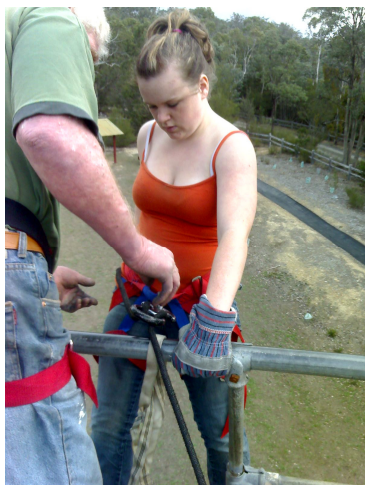


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Imogen really got into things, leading the way in most activities.

We are looking forward to visiting the UK and seeing all of you who have supported us in the last one and half years.

Writing newsletters is great but time is always against us. The BCV course gives little time for anything in the evenings except study.

It combines three courses

together and things do not always get the priority they are due. This year Paul will not have time to complete his ATPL, which allows him to be pilot in command of a multi-crew aircraft. MAF do not have any in Arnhem Land, so this will not be a problem in the near term.



With our busy lives occupying our time, let us not forget why we are truly here – to love and worship God. *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* - Rom 12:2

Psalm 62 - *My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.*

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

.... 11 *One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely, you will reward each person according to what he has done.*

Dr Friebe's – MAF Doctor, 2007 – SIM - Faith

“I encourage you to take risks for God. Take risks with your family. Take risks with your children. The experience will make your children rich in God and give them experiences you alone cannot give them.”

Finally - 1 Peter 1:8

*“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him** and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...”*

Thanks be to God. Amen.

See you soon, Love – Paul, Clare, Kiri, Imogen, Aaron, Tristan

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