**Voodington** 

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

APRIL 2013



Highland Life - In the darkness around us, His light shines even brighter through us.

#### **Remoteness**

Life in the highlands can be challenging. The remoteness is not always easily dealt with. Poor Internet connection is a bonus, but the food particularly vegetables are easily come by. Fish is available but the way in which it is transported to the highlands leaves much to be desired. Fish is a common cause of gastro. Meat is plentiful, but again, a common cause of illness if not cooked extra well.

The EBC church we attend is great by PNG standards, but most services are by national preachers and its difficult to get the spiritual up-flit we need.

#### Health

An outbreak of Chikungunya, a mosquito spread disease similar to Dengue fever has reached most villages in Goroka where we live. Our minister reported this morning that over 80% of his village has been infected. Clare and another lady in our compound contracted this incurable virus

#### **Training Update**



from a mosquito. The worst part lasts two weeks followed by a prolonged recovery period of several more weeks. The virus is debilitating, affecting joints, with rash, nausea and headaches. Clare was very ill during this time. Thank the Lord for looking after her as she now returns to normal routine and her new voluntary position at NTM school in the Library.

#### Giardia

During Clare's time of sickness the afternoon's rain stopped in Goroka and we ran out of water. We are dependent on water collected from our roof. We do have a supply from town but when the rains stops, no one has water. When eventually the town water did flow it come with a water borne virus called Giardia. Our water filters were

We are very short of training pilots. Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, some related to illness, we lost two key check and training pilots in the last year and one more will be leaving at the end of this year.

The situation in PNG is critical with little coverage for single engine aircraft by the end of this year. Please pray for more training staff to come online and for more suitable aircraft to become available.



not sufficient to remove this common disease and we all had a dose of gastro of the worst kind. Aaron was unable to fly back to his boarding school in Cairns, so we suffered together for a further week. Clare was just recovering from Chikungunya - and still is, so for her it was a double dose of illness. Please pray for her, she has been very brave and thanks the Lord for all our recovery.



### **Clare's Billums**

Clare has been very industrious making Billums (bags) from coffee sacks and has also been teaching our local house mary both Billium making, sewing and cooking.



## Highland life continued...

#### **Birthdays**

In the Woodington family, this is the season of birthdays. Aaron at the end of Feb, Tristan end of March and Paul, Clare and Kiri in April. There is then a break before Imogen's in August. Kiri was 21 on 18th April and celebrated her

birthday in Melbourne with her sister. When we are on furlough at the end of the year, we will celebrate this great event as a family in the UK. Thank the Lord for our wonderful family.

#### Security Risk

This is a seasonal issue, some seasons are good some bad. We are in a bad season right now. One of our staff in Goroka was highjacked in their car whilst driving into their compound one evening. They were held captive at gunpoint in their garage whilst their house burgled where their children were asleep. Thank the Lord for their safety.

Another attack in Mount Hagen next to the MAF compound resulted in an expat (not MAF) being killed and a Philippino lady raped by a gang of 10.

MAF staff there have been supportive of the family but have been affected by the incident themselves. In the darkness around us, His light shines even brighter through us.

All compounds now have guards at night. Please pray for the security in PNG.

#### **New Aircraft**

The headline photo of this newsletter is of a Twin Otter aircraft with Paul, Clare and Tris. This is the

biggest aircraft MAF flies. It is very special bush strip aircraft which can uplift 22 people at a time from the smallest of our strips here in PNG. The aircraft requires two pilots, a captain and a first officer for all flights. MAF has asked Paul to move onto the Twin Otter with immediate effect. This means more training for Paul on Gas Turbine engines, multi-crew training and IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) training. Please pray that all this training goes smoothly.

#### **Immediate Plans**

There are many exams accompanying this new aircraft. In May Paul will start ground training in Goroka for two weeks. In June the family will take a three week break in Cairns. Paul will stay for



just five days before flying onto Melbourne to renew his Twin Command Instrument Rating over a three week period. This is followed by two exams in Port Moresby on his way back. In July Paul will fly as first officer followed by his PNG IFR Flight Test in August. This is a very aggressive program, so please pray for all to go smoothly.

#### IT

MAF in PNG is very short of IT staff. It currently has none. In the past few months Paul has stepped in to shore up the products used everyday - rewriting two major applications, which will stabile the program for the immediate future. Thank the Lord for the skills He provides through His disciples.

#### GOD BLESS YOU ALL LOVE FROM PAUL, CLARE AND FAMILY APRIL 2013

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# Support and Donations

Would you like to receive family updates? We send them out every two or three months. <u>support@woodington.com</u>

#### **Donations**

If God has laid upon you heart a desire to support us and our Family in the work of MAF, please contact

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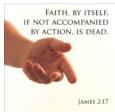
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