

Fennekes Flightpath



March 2016



The floatplane taking off in Sinimburu, the village we visited in south central Papua

It's March and we are well into the second half of the school year already! This means there are less than three months left until we go on home assignment for the last time. Just a few days ago we received our ten year certificate from MAF!



We are truly grateful for all of you who have been alongside us and supported us allowing us to be here in Papua, serving with MAF. It has truly been a memorable ten years!

One of our most memorable times happened only last December. For the entire time we have lived in Papua we have had a desire to visit the Korowai area to see the work of our friends the deVries family (Wycliffe). Together with Marc and Brynne we

flew into their village on the floatplane (also a first for the kids and me), leaving the older kids home as they had exams.

The deVries family have lived and worked with the Korowai, the famed tree house dwellers, for over ten years now. Just one year ago the first believers were baptized and a new Reformed church was formed. It was a moving experience to worship with them on the Sunday we were there.

Services are held in the local government building, which has a concrete floor and plastic chairs. Singing was done in both Indonesian and their native tongue while the teaching, done by the two elders, was mainly in their native language.

Each day from 4:00-6:00pm Maaïke deVries runs a medical clinic on her front porch. As most people in the village are illiterate, she has devised a system where each patient has a card, and symbols are used to show how much and how often the prescribed medicine needs to be taken. Many don't even take their cards home with

them, they just tuck them into the wooden siding on the deVries home. Maaïke has also trained a number of local people to assist her and to take over when they are in Sentani so that this valuable work may continue to assist the people.

During our time there we also had the opportunity to hike into the jungle and visit a tree house and observe how the people procure sago flour.

We had an amazing time with the deVries family, seeing up close and personal how their family lives in the jungle and how they work for and with the people. We observed that they make very intentional choices on how they will do things to best keep the people independent instead of dependent on them.

However, the most important thing that one can do for such a people still being pulled to the old dark ways, is to show them the light of Christ. And this is precisely what the deVries family is doing in their little corner of the jungles of Papua.

Special points of interest:

- ON FEBRUARY 14TH CHRISTIAAN TURNED 16!
- ON MARCH 14TH MIKAH TURNED 18!
- WHILE WE WERE INTERIOR, THE SCHOOL HAD ITS ANNUAL INVITATIONAL FUTSAL TOURNAMENT. OUR SCHOOL'S GIRLS TEAM WON FIRST PLACE AND MIKAH WAS NAMED TOURNAMENT MVP.
- A LOCAL GUY, USUALLY INEBRIATED, CLAIMS THAT HE IS THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE LAND THAT THE POOL IS ON AND IS DEMANDING PAYMENT FOR IT. AS HE WAS BECOMING MORE FORCEFUL IN HIS VISITS TO THE POOL, INCLUDING CHANGING THE GATE LOCK, WE AS A COMMUNITY DECIDED TO LEAVE THE POOL FOR NOW. IT'S VERY SAD AS WE HAVE ALL ENJOYED MANY HOURS OF FUN THERE.



Maaïke helping patients during clinic time. (R) Hugo was able to fix some government issued solar panels.



In church the men sit on one side and the women and children on the other. (R) Brynne climbing up into the treehouse.



From The Hangar:

In January Hugo officially handed over the reins of Maintenance Operations Manager (MOM) to the new guy. This gives some overlap time for the new MOM to learn the job with the former MOM still around. Hugo has been working on inputting all the aircraft parts into a database which will be used by the new maintenance tracking software that MAF has purchased. This is a massive undertaking! Hugo is also continuing to train the two national employees working in the avionics division.

Outdoor Education:

Each year the high school goes to a village interior for nearly two weeks. During this time the kids are divided into groups and are responsible to do HIV/AIDS awareness presentations, kids club, work projects, cook for the whole group, do dishes and learn. This year they went to a village about two hours drive from the mountain city of Wamena. From there each group also hiked into outlying villages for a couple of days and many kids had the opportunity to sleep (or not sleep) in a traditional hut. Each day in the main village the kids were taught by a missionary who has worked in Papua for many years. This was a stretching/learning experience for the kids!



Marc celebrated his 12th birthday with some of his good buddies at the beginning of December.



Once a week Erica helps some of the SPH teachers with their English. We had them over for a pre-Christmas dinner.



Hugo and two other MAF staff helped NTM missionary Mike Wild install a radar on his boat.

Praise and Prayer:

- ➔ Praise for a good start to the new school year.
- ➔ Praise for good friends here both national and expat.
- ➔ Praise for neat learning experiences.
- ➔ Prayer for our family as we look to be intentional in our final half year here in Papua.
- ➔ Prayer for Hugo as he finishes his last projects.
- ➔ Prayer for Mikah as she finishes her senior year of high school and looks towards University.

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Our church held the Christmas Eve service in our home.

Hugo and Erica

Mikah, Christiaan, Aidan,

Marc, and Brynne