



Bad News, Good News.....

Bad News....Our breadmaker which was a wedding present and only churned out approx 4000 loaves of bread (at a guess) finally spat the dummy and said, "No more!"

Good News... Chris' Mum had a breadmaker she wasn't using which she gave to us. It is now in a shipping container enroute to Mount Hagen....(If it ever clears Customs, 13 weeks in Lae and still waiting)!

Well, it appears that 9 months have slipped by since we last wrote. I simply don't believe that, but try as I may to find the newsletters that have been written and sent in the meantime, I just can't seem to find them. So for your benefit, a quick review...

We left for Australia on furlough about a month earlier than anticipated (end of October) so that we could help out on Narelle's parent's farm during Harvest. Her mum had not been well for a while, so we managed to surprise them (by showing up unannounced ahead of schedule) and gave them a hand during that busy time.

Over Christmas we had 4-6 weeks in Townsville before heading south and catching up with some good friends in Canberra. We spent some good family time

at the Questacon Science and Technology Centre, the Australian War Memorial, Temora Aviation museum and others also as we meandered back towards Victoria in time for the first school term.

The three kids were able to attend Narelle's old Primary School at Donald for a term which went really well. The school bus came to the farm gate each morning and even had the same bus driver that drove Narelle to school! The boys picked up Cricket and Football, and Natalya was able to enjoy some dancing lessons...

Narelle was able to successfully finish off a correspondence course she had been doing on "Interior Design" and we were both able to put it to some good use by doing some work on our house in Ballarat, as well as transforming an outside laundry into an extra bedroom with ensuite for Narelle's parents.

We finished off our time in Australia by having a week at Kyneton catching up with family and some good friends from England who were in Australia on holidays. We also had a week or so in Dalby, again catching up with some friends before heading back to PNG.

PS. The container with our breadmaker and other items arrived this week! Yay!



Millions against Malaria

It was very exciting to have some 'record breaking' visitors recently. The crew dropped in for a night here at Telefomin on their round the world flight in an Australian Manufactured aeroplane (A GA8, what else?) raising money and awareness about Malaria as they went. I had got to know Tim Pryse, one of the pilots in Bendigo while I was doing my Instructor rating there several years ago.

www.millionsagainstmalaria.com

Always Training....

I am now flying the new Turbo GA8 Airvan and the Twin Otter. It has been close to 10 years since we have had a smaller single engine aircraft based out here in TLF along with the Twin Otter. I was amazed at the amount of emotion from the people regarding having it here again. This enables us to better serve the "smaller loads" ie, the 1 or 2 passengers here and there which is

very costly for us to do in the Twin Otter. Even though I am only flying 2 days a week on the Airvan, the program is rapidly growing. The bigger part of the plan though, regarding the Airvan is that I get my training approvals back again so that I can be involved in training some of the new staff coming later in the year. Somewhere in that I am trying to stay current on the Otter!



GA8 Airvan

Dominoes anyone?

Even with extra staff arriving, a single change at one base, ie. an aircraft breakdown, sickness, or staff relocating has a domino effect. One change here, means 5, 10, 15 changes elsewhere.

This is very tiring for management as they constantly juggle all the options.

Please Pray for good decision making, and understanding by all concerned as we constantly deal with change



Load of Vegeis from Bak to Tabubil

Bunis

Last Tuesday night, some of the Hospital staff came to our house requesting an urgent medivac first thing in the morning. Bunis, a young guy from the the High School had been walking across one of the Hydro water pipes that are suspended across ravines. Unfortunately he slipped and fell approximately 9 meters to the rocks below and sustained a severe head injury, fracturing his left frontal skull bone in fragments as well as breaking his right forearm. He had severe swelling and was in and out of conciousness. I was very concerned how we were going to pull this off.

Our Twin Otter was stuck in Mount Hagen with unscheduled maintenance, and the Airvan is not IFR, meaning I am not allowed to fly through the clouds. May to July is our worst time of year for weather in the Tabubil area as the South-East winds pack the moisture sodden clouds hard up against the mountains. It is not unusual for us to have to wait until 10:00 or 11:00 am before we can even leave Telefomin and have a go at getting into Tabubil. Everybody knew this, so we got the word around for people to start praying



Bunis waiting for the Ambulance at Tabubil

that tomorrow, the weather would be good enough that we could depart early and get in to Tabubil.

I was up at 5:00 am, and went outside, and instead of the misty fog that had been normal for weeks, I was greeted to the sight of millions of stars! As the sun came up, the Telefomin Valley was more or less cloud free, all the mountains displaying the grandeur of their Creator! When word came through that the weather on the "ötherside of the wall" was good, (the Hindenberg Wall which separates Tefefomin from Tabubil) we knew without a doubt that our prayers had been answered.



Dale Derksen, one of the other pilots here drove down and picked up Bunis with the Doctor and it was with relief to hear that he had regained consciousness, even though he was still in a serious condition.

The last we have heard he is stable, although the doctors are waiting for the swelling to reduce before they can operate. I was up early the next morning and took some photos. Cloud, Rain and fog! The day of the medivac, with clear skies all the way to Tabubil was the only day like that in weeks, if not months. It was a real reminder that not only do we serve a God who answers prayer, but one who is interested in the day to day aspects of our lives.

Morning of Bunis' Medivac, (above) and what the scene looks like normally (below)



Greek National Debt!!

Most of you I guess have heard of the economic woes of some of the European countries. As far as Telefomin seems removed from the rest of PNG, let alone the world, the troubles that are happening in Greece and other places, does filter down and effect our operations here in PNG. Donor funding which last week was worth "something" has been whittled down by exchange rates etc. to a figure much, much less that we were anticipating. Hence there are extra burdens on us as an organization to make ends meet.

In line with all the other MAF's around the world, MAF Australia is requiring all its staff to increase our level of outside support. Eventually this will need to be at 100%.

Thank you to all who have been involved in this part of our ministry. If you are interested in more information regarding this, please contact the staff at Mission Aviation Fellowship in Australia on 07 4046 1300, or email maf@maf.org.au.

We will try hard to get another update before another 9 months literally flies by!

Until then, may you stay close under His wing.



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Prayer Points

- o *We are both EXTREMELY busy, pray that we can prioritise effectively so that time with God and Family doesn't get crowded out by other things.*
- o *Since arriving back in country, we have all to some extent been battling sickness, including Chris's recurring IBS. Please pray for complete healing and renewed energy.*
- o *Most of Narelle's Day is taken up with home schooling, pray that term 3 goes as smoothly as term 2!*
- o *The one thing that is constant is CHANGE...pray that we can remain flexible and keep a sense of humour☺*