FLYING FOR LIFE

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF MAF IN AUSTRALIA



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SUMMER EDITION 2025/26

Celebrating our 80th Anniversary


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Image captions:

1) CineMAF event in Sydney.
2) MAF Pilot Joseph Tua (in traditional face paint), with His Majesty King Charles III, MAF UK CEO Donovan Palmer (L) and former MAFI CEO Dave Fyock (R), unveiling the latest addition to our PNG fleet.
3) MAF's 80th Anniversary Thanksgiving service.
4-7) Plane Tour Experience events around Australia.
8-9) MAF's 80th Anniversary Gala in Melbourne.

Chris Coffee Aviation Foundation

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OR DONATE.



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Reflecting on a Year of Impact

This year was filled with excitement, as we celebrated 80 years of MAF shining God's light in some of the most isolated places on earth. We also experienced the privilege of deeper global collaboration, working in new ways to extend MAF's impact worldwide.

There have been times of sadness too, particularly the tragic death of MAF pilot Chris Coffee, who was killed in a road accident on his way to work in Arnhem Land in January. In memory of Chris and with the support of the Coffee family, it has been an honour to establish the Chris Coffee Aviation Foundation. The Foundation will equip and empower local pilots and engineers to bring life-saving help, hope and healing to isolated communities – Chris would have been thrilled.

One special highlight this year was introducing MAF Papua New Guinea's (PNG) newest aircraft, P2-AFD, to supporters, during its east coast tour. Now serving daily in PNG, it is a vital lifeline for remote communities.

I've also loved journeying alongside Garrett and Katie Munyard, as they prepare to head to PNG in 2026. It will be a joy to partner with them, as they settle into life and service with MAF in PNG.

Thanks to your partnership, this has been a year of growing global impact for MAF. Your support helped make June a record month for giving, and we are delighted to welcome many new supporters who have joined the MAF family through various activities this year.

To our long-standing supporters, your faithful generosity continues to sustain this ministry and inspire us daily. To every church and individual who prays, gives or volunteers, we are deeply grateful.

I look forward to journeying with you all into 2026, and beyond.

As we enter the Christmas season, we reflect on the source of the light we carry – the One who came into our world to shine on those living in darkness, and draw us into God's great love.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!



Chris Barnes
CEO, MAF in Australia



The sun is shining in Dimanbil

For 40 years, planes only flew *over* the remote village of Dimanbil, Papua New Guinea – a constant reminder of the schools, medicine and help they couldn't reach. But today, after decades of struggle, determination and collective effort, Dimanbil finally welcomes MAF flights on its very own runway.

Sandaun Province, PNG
LOCATION

40 years
TO BUILD THE RUNWAY BY HAND

800–1,000
PEOPLE LIVE IN THE AREA

2023
RUNWAY OPENED

4 days
WALK TO REACH SCHOOL OR CLINIC

20 minutes
FLIGHT THAT NOW CONNECTS VILLAGERS TO HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND TRADE

Watch the arrival of MAF in Dimanbil.

For Dimanbil villagers, isolation once meant a four-day journey on foot to reach school, sleeping in small huts along the way, driven by a powerful desire to learn.

Isolation also meant no healthcare, no nurse when birth complications arose, and no medicine when malaria struck. Sick people could only wait, or set out on a tiring journey, praying they might find help in time. With no phone or radio, there was no way to call for assistance. Life's essentials were out of reach.

To break free from isolation, the villagers began building an airstrip with nothing but bush knives, sticks, and sheer determination.

For 40 years, they worked with their bare hands to carve a runway out of the dense jungle.

But in late 2023, after decades of hard work, a MAF aircraft landed on their newly built airstrip for the very first time. Their dreams had finally come true!

Now, two years after the opening, the people of Dimanbil remain full of enthusiasm every time a MAF plane touches down.

Wokul Timoti, an elderly woman, remembers the beginnings: "I don't know my exact birthdate. When I worked on this runway, my hair had not yet turned grey. And now the plane has come. You brought the plane, and I'm so happy and singing because I see you here," she says in her heart language, gesturing with her hands.

Wokul recalls the days when planes only flew overhead, bypassing their village on the way to Tumolbil, Munbil and Yapsie. "Before, we lived in darkness and watched the planes fly over us. But now the plane lands here," says Wokul.

"This change is like the sun shining on us."

Others share her joy. Meton Kenon, who returned to his home village after eight years, remembers the long walks from Dimanbil to Telefomin – four days over ridges and rivers, sleeping in small shelters along the way. "We didn't have a school," he says, remembering his childhood. "We lived in the dense jungle, in the dark."

Now, with the runway open, what once took days can be done in just 20 minutes.

Milton Konsep, the local government representative, acknowledges the decades of effort: "We have worked extremely hard for this. And now we're so happy that MAF lands here."

This airstrip is a lifeline to healthcare, education, trade and a new future for villagers who have struggled for generations. Health and education supplies are now delivered, and people like Meton can save days of travel to Telefomin. The community can also support their students at Telefomin Secondary School with fresh garden produce from home.

"I'm now going to send food for the students. That makes me happy too," says Wokul.

Despite her age, Wokul is eager to see even more change: "You must keep coming to our airstrip, so I can witness even more changes in our lives. May God watch over you, and thank you for bringing the plane. That's wonderful!"

Story by Mandy Glass, MAF in Papua New Guinea.



A plane brings supplies and saves villagers days of walking.



Solar lights brighten delivery rooms, giving mothers, babies and health workers safety, comfort and hope in remote communities.

Switching on the light for expectant mothers

Thanks to solar lighting installed by MAF Technologies through The Mama Waiting Hut initiative, mothers in remote PNG communities can now give birth safely in well-lit delivery rooms. This vital work of shining light where it's most needed, previously featured in *Flying for Life*, continues to impact precious lives.

A young mother of two, Jemimah Ase is nine months pregnant with her third child. "I crossed rivers and climbed mountains just to reach the health centre, to get help and medicine," said Jemimah.

A modern-day refuge

Tucked away in the mountains of PNG's Bena District, in the Eastern Highlands Province, many mothers walk long distances for medical care. Their journeys echo Mary and Joseph seeking a safe place for the birth of Jesus, making these waiting huts a modern-day refuge where hope and care unite.

In this Province alone, five solar-lit Mama Waiting Huts provide safe shelter for vulnerable expectant mothers. For women like Jemimah, who faced previous childbirth complications, this means staying comfortably and safely, right next to the medical care she needs.

"For my second-born child, the pain was so intense I couldn't make it in time to the health centre, so I stayed back and delivered my baby beside a river in the village," Jemimah said.

Light that saves lives

Dr Freda Wemin, Interim President for the Mama Waiting Hut initiative, said: "If we provide that small facility beside the health centre, it gives women a safe space to seek help when needed, ensuring they get timely assistance."

A key phase of the initiative was installing solar lights in delivery rooms, postnatal wards and waiting huts.

"With support from MAF Technologies, we provided solar lights for health workers - especially at night to ensure safe deliveries, because most remote health facilities lack reliable electricity," Dr Wemin explained.

Guidance and hope

Ite Tona, a Community Health Worker, has seen the difference firsthand:

"It was different in the past, we worked with whatever we had, but since receiving the solar lights, they've truly helped and saved many mothers' lives," she said.

Jovina Kerowa, MAF Technologies Procurement Officer, adds,

> **"The lights give mothers hope, knowing health workers can see clearly during delivery."**

"We hope to continue supporting these remote areas by bringing hope and light, and we're blessed that God has called MAF Technologies to meet this vital need."

Shining light where it's most needed

The hope and prayer of MAF Technologies is to reach more communities, promoting safer motherhood through solar lights and shelters. Just as the Christmas story reminds us that God's Light enters the humblest places, these solar lights reflect the arrival of Christ, who brought light and care into the world – shining it where it's needed most.

Story by Kowara Bell, MAF Technologies in PNG.

MAF TECHNOLOGIES

1946
ORIGINALLY FOUNDED AS CRMF

MAF Technologies has a long history of connecting isolated communities in Papua New Guinea. Originally founded as the Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship (CRMF) in 1946, it created a vital High Frequency radio network in the 1950s, linking remote mission stations.

2009
BECAME MAF TECHNOLOGIES

Part of the MAF family since 2009, it continues to provide practical solutions – from radio communication to solar power and digital Bibles – to help communities advance the Gospel and leap the 'technology divide'.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT

Solar Panel: $350

Reliable electricity is a luxury in remote communities. Give a Gift of Light and help provide for the purchase of solar panels that help protect pregnant women in case of electricity failure during labour.

SHOP GIFT CATALOGUE





Pastor Kimin serves as the local MAF agent, helping pilots with weather reports, loading, unloading and passenger handling.

Worship and the Word: An evening with Pastor Kimin

Kimin Mauwe grew up taking MAF flights with his father, a missionary in PNG. Now, for over three decades, Kimin has faithfully served his community, both as a pastor and a local MAF airstrip agent.

MAF's Matt Painter and Aquila Matit sat down with Kimin to hear his story, and learn how MAF continues to help him share the Good News with his people through the Bible Box initiative.

It's a dark night in Karimui. There's no electricity and we're two days' walk from the nearest road. The room is dimly lit by a battery-powered light, casting shadows across the woven matting walls.

Pastor Kimin Mauwe and his wife Susan have welcomed us into their home.

As Kimin tells stories over a simple meal, the rhythm of his softly spoken words is peaceful. "My father, Mauwe Kamaya, left his home area to do mission work here in Karimui in 1963," he says.

Kimin tells of how he flew back and forth with his father – on MAF planes – during his childhood years. But as he grew older, he realised that his faith journey was much the same as these early flights – he was just a passenger.

A life transformed

"When I went to church, I felt like I was worshipping, but I hadn't changed my heart. Some of the things the Bible says I shouldn't hold, I was still holding onto those. Some of the things the Bible says I shouldn't touch, I

was still touching those," he says. "So, when I repented, I felt like I wanted to break away from sin, to be far away from it. My God is holy, and I wanted to worship Him with a right heart and a clean way of living."

Kimin's worship did not stop there. He shares how he began a life of service, not only as a husband and father, but through service in the Karimui Baptist Church, and in the community.

"In 1992, I became a pastor. I then started work as an MAF agent in 1993, and have continued until now."

Across PNG, MAF relies heavily on airstrip agents, each appointed by church and community. They prepare passengers and cargo, communicate with route and load planners, and give invaluable weather reports.

"MAF have done a huge work in this country," adds Kimin. "They serve the people really well."

Kimin reflects on his journey to faith in Jesus: "When I turned my heart, I worshipped, and I felt God's peace. I felt the Holy Spirit direct my speech and all my ways, and He taught me many things from His Word.



Pilot Mathias Glass sells Bibles at Eleme, offering both Tok Pisin and English translations.

"All of God's Word has *pawa* (power)," he says, speaking in Tok Pisin, or Pidgin English.

Bibles in their heart language

"People here usually buy many Tok Pisin Bibles. When the MAF plane comes to the airstrip, everyone gathers around the pilot, and they buy them quickly."

MAF pilots sell the subsidised Bibles from a 'Bible Box', which is carried on each flight to remote communities. When a bookshop in town is so far away, the availability of Bibles in the bush is not something people take for granted.

"If MAF didn't sell Bibles in this country and bring them to us, all the people in the bush would have a really hard time. But MAF makes it easy for us."

As our dark night grows long, Kimin finishes with just a few words:

"MAF helps us. They bring Bibles to our hands. This is good."

Story by Matt Painter, MAF International.



GIVE THE GIFT OF TRANSFORMATION

Bibles: $85**

Choose a Gift of Transformation for a loved one to bring Bibles to people in remote communities. Your generous gift will enable people to read Scripture in their own language.

***This gift is non-tax deductible.*

SHOP GIFT CATALOGUE



Against all odds: From refugee to role model

When Elizabeth fled unimaginable violence in South Sudan, she arrived in Uganda with nothing but her children and a determination to survive.

Elizabeth Andrew Gatluak (34) is living a story of heartbreak, courage and hope. It began in Bentiu, South Sudan, where her life was shattered by violence. The murder of her husband in a mass shooting, followed by a rebel invasion of her home, forced Elizabeth to make a decision no one should ever face: to flee.

Arriving in the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda in 2022, Elizabeth was carrying the trauma of her past, and the responsibility of caring for five children. Elizabeth found the courage to walk into the office of the headteacher of a school run by MAF partner, the Khayamandi Foundation. There she knelt down and shared her story. Staff were moved by her humility and determination, and she was offered a job as a cleaner.

"Even though I was earning little, it helped me take care of my five children," Elizabeth recalls. Over time, her dedication led to a new opportunity: she became a teacher for the top class at the school. "I live a day at a time. I don't know what the future holds, but I'm grateful for the opportunity that New Life school offered."

Elizabeth's troubles are, sadly, not unique. Her story reflects the struggles and hopes of countless South Sudanese women in the Refugee Settlement. The support of organisations like Khayamandi Foundation, and the life-saving flights provided by MAF, have made a profound difference. Khayamandi's Managing Director, Herbert Niwahereza, says:

> **"We consider MAF as life savers because getting to these different remote places with you makes a very big difference."**

Elizabeth's journey, and her role as a teacher, is a reminder that even in dark circumstances, hope can flourish, lives can be rebuilt and futures can be brighter.

Story by Damalie Hirwa, MAF in Uganda.

From IT to Impact

Matthew Sampias always had a sense of adventure and a heart for serving others. For years he balanced his faith with a stable IT career in Brisbane. In the early 2020s, Matthew discovered MAF and was drawn to the opportunity to combine his skills, sense of adventure and desire to serve. He reached out, explored options and after prayer and family discussions, applied for the role of Global Data Manager.

Since joining MAF, Matthew has been supporting teams in over 14 countries, providing data and insights that help answer critical questions: *How far has an aircraft flown? Which communities need the most help? When is maintenance due?*

Reflecting on his journey, Matthew says: "This work not only requires technical competency, but also faith, fortitude and an attitude of service."

To others, Matthew says, "I encourage anyone thinking about a career with MAF. Even if it's in a field you don't think is relevant, reach out and start a conversation. An amazing and meaningful professional adventure could be waiting."

In recruitment, we see the ripple effect and the impact of YES to serve with Mission Aviation Fellowship. It shapes not only the lives of those you serve today, but also the generations that follow. We need staff in operations, management, IT, admin, HR, as well as pilots and engineers and more, people who step forward, bringing their talents, professional skills and passion, so that isolated communities can experience the hope of Jesus.

As John 1:5 reminds us 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'.

Will you prayerfully consider serving with MAF? You'll help ensure no one is left in the dark. Have a chat with our friendly recruitment team today.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SERVING WITH US.



Matthew Sampias, MAF Global Data Manager.

FUELLED BY PRAYER

We urgently need your prayers. Our staff face long hours, challenging weather and isolation, as they serve some of the world's hardest-to-reach communities.

Pray for their safety, wisdom and encouragement, and for the families depending on each flight. Your prayers sustain them in ways practical support alone cannot.

SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE MONTHLY PRAYER POINTS.



Leave a lifeline now

Long-time MAF supporters Geoff and Bev Atkinson enthusiastically responded when the MAF Flight Training Centre in Mareeba needed a new aircraft.

Geoff shares, "The call for Australian supporters to fund a 'new' training aircraft, was an opportunity for us to participate in a 'living gift', in the sense that we can see and read of the aircraft's role currently, whilst we are still living, as distinct from a Will bequest that would flow through later. We have been blessed to see the plane in service, being used by God to extend the Kingdom."

Geoff and Bev released money already set aside in their Wills. Their gift, combined with a substantial bequest, and donations from 800 other Aussie supporters, helped fund WLX, a new Cessna 182T.

This shows two ways of using Gifts in Wills: the traditional way after passing, and the Atkinsons' decision to give from what they had committed, finding joy in watching their gift at work during their lifetime.

In *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn highlights the Biblical truth that everything on earth is God's: "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine," declares the LORD in Haggai 2:8.

Jesus reminds us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth (Matthew 6:19-21).

If God has stirred your heart to give, why wait? Give now and experience the blessing of seeing lives changed today, while also laying up treasure for eternity.

GIFTS IN WILLS

If you would like to explore how your legacy can make a difference in MAF today or in the future, please feel free to contact:

Mike Swanton
0405 022 478
partner@maf.org.au

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

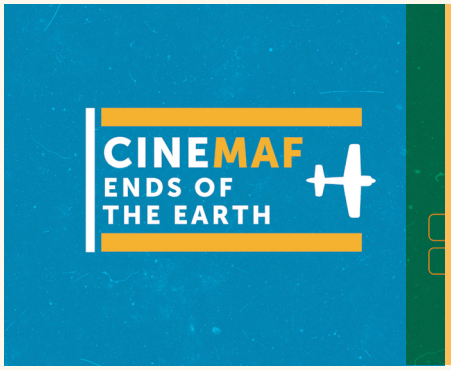
Community News

GET INVOLVED WITH MAF



Fuel for Father's Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Fuel for Father's Day! Your generosity helps us reach families in remote areas, delivering medicine, food and emergency care where it's needed most.



CineMAF Events

We're excited to see how communities and churches across Australia have been hosting *CineMAF* events throughout the year. The feedback has been that the documentary is deeply moving and inspiring. These events shine a light on God at work through aviation – and you can host one too.



Kids helping Kids this Christmas: A MAF Advent Challenge

This Advent, your family or your church can join MAF in helping children in remote communities access education, healthcare and hope. Through stories, prayers and fun activities, kids will learn the joy of generosity and the impact of small acts of kindness.

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Give a Gift of Goodwill

Your Gift of Goodwill empowers MAF to bring help, hope and healing to those who need it most – often at a moment's notice. Every gift will have a big impact, because it's not just a gift... it's a lifeline.

Choose a gift from our gift catalogue today, and together we can transform lives, one gift at a time.

SHOP GIFT CATALOGUE

GIVE A GIFT OF GOODWILL **$200**



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