

Andy and Emma Dipper are serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). They are seconded from MAF UK to MAF USA whereby Andy is Regional Director for Indonesia which is their largest region of operations. MAF provides access to the most remote regions of the world through light aircraft. Emma supports the MAF team in Indonesia alongside Andy and is working on specific global projects with MAF USA.



With Marianne (VP for People MAF USA),
Eddie Tucker



On the Jetty with the float plane in Papua &

Life From the Air!

We begin this newsletter in the middle of our second out of three flights travelling from Sentani, Papua (The most eastern point of Indonesia) to Tarakan, North Kalimantan (one of the furthest Islands to the north). We had anticipated that this 13-week trip would be varied and demanding which it has been. However, there is no denying how amazing it is to share life with highly talented and committed teams of local and foreign workers serving remote communities across thousands of miles. The goal of the programmes across Indonesia is to assist in mobilising the local church. This looks different in each location with a variety of needs.

As you read in our last newsletter, it can be a medical evacuation. Whereby our planes transport *anyone* from the community who has been deemed by a local health worker of requiring tertiary health care. This past week there were some tensions in Papua due to local elections. That resulted in 4 medevacs with injuries from arrows still lodged in the patients' bodies. In Kalimantan, family who accompany the patients can stay at Rumah Singgah which is a halfway house where they are taken care of by family, MAF staff and a chaplain. They respect whatever faith the family follow as all are welcome. The sick family member often stays in the hostel after hospital discharge to complete their treatment until they are fully recovered to travel. The aviation staff and rest of the MAF team are also involved offering a more holistic approach attending the monthly service held there and sharing life together whatever the outcome.

The MAF flights also transport building supplies, health equipment, pastors, teachers and Bible translators, food for cross-cultural workers living in remote areas and pigs! In Papua, the main method of trading is through the buying and selling of pigs (150kg pig sells for \$1500). They are tied securely with threads of tree bark and put into the cargo hold below the cabin. It's a little unnerving hearing them squeal and move around below you at take off!

Over the next few months our **Dipper Diary** will look *something* like this...

- 2-6 Dec** Merauke, Papua - a one-family base whereby we will see the Amphibian plane in action
- 7 Dec** Polly arrives in Jakarta! The BEST day to look forward to!
- 9 Dec** To Tarakan, Kalimantan to spend nearly 2 weeks with the team. Polly will do some science workshops to support the children being Home-schooled.
- 20 Dec** Andy, Em and Polly meet Charlotte (coming from India) in Bali to share Christmas!
- 27 Dec** Jessie and Luke arrive in Bali!

3 Jan Jakarta for the weekend
6 Jan Travel to the UK
12 -23 Jan Nampa, MAF USA
24 Jan - 5 Feb UK
Then back to Indonesia, to the US and it continues ...

Nothing New Under the Sun!

Andy's role is unique and interesting as he has influence and scope into the so-called 'field' (which is an old colonial term hence our reluctance to use it) across Indonesia and within MAF USA HQ, who we are seconded to and visit for meetings four times a year. It means he can influence strategy and challenge the status quo should that be called for. However, like so many of us in our roles, whatever the context, it's about people! Same old issues but different environments. Andy prefers to lead alongside and coach people into change or development but sometimes he has just had to tell'em! Our biggest cultural lessons are working within a US organisational culture and we think getting used to us Brits is a learning curve for the team too!

Flying – the fun-filled and fearful!

As Marianne Tucker (VP for People MAF USA) travelled with us for 2 weeks we joined her on some flights across Papua. Andy loves sitting in the co-pilot seat talking with the pilot and sounding knowledgeable about avionics! On the other hand, Emma clutches at the seat trying not to squeal as the pilot skilfully weaves through steep mountain ranges covered in jungle, circling down between clouds into deep valleys to land on a green more fit for a pitch and putt! It's utterly remarkable as these airstrips open communities to the world.

Click this link to join us on flight and landing across Papua!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AKgAsYoKGfUQa2hBGvTvtgJNOaueWbrt/view?usp=sharing>

Or scan this QR code with your phone.



'Driving Home for Christmas'

Andy absolutely loves listening to Christmas music, so we started doing that in the days before we left for Indonesia! The classic Chris Rea's *Driving Home for Christmas* makes us feel particularly nostalgic but it does beg the question for us this year, 'Where is home?' Andy describes it as no longer a *place* but more of *being* with those you hold dear, who understand and love you (plus seasonal variations ie. not hot and humid every single day!). Jessie has released a new album this week called *Hiraeth*, the Welsh word of 'longing for home'. Her title track is beautiful and reflects some of our spiritual as well as physical and relational longing for being home.

That's what Advent is truly about. As Andy and I share the incredible privilege of travelling across a vast area of God's creation that we neither desired for nor knew of a year ago, we've had to come to terms with both belonging and not belonging. Of being sojourners for now, rather than destination seekers. Knowing that Jesus will come again and yet we wait expectantly for a place that is truly home.



December 2024


*“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set **eternity** in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”* Ecclesiastes 3:11


Love, thanks as sojourners together,

Andy & Emma

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Would you like to hear from us more regularly? We have two  Signal Groups, one for prayer requests and the other for general news, photos and videos.

We are now setting up duplicate groups on the WhatsApp  platform as the Signal groups are getting too big for videos and some of you have found it challenging to access. Please email Emma to let her know if you'd like to join any of these groups or click on the links below from your phone.

[A&E News](#)

[A&E Prayer Log](#)

We have a tremendous group of people supporting us financially through giving to MAF as Andy receives an allowance for this role in MAF. If you'd like to contribute, then please go to this link. <https://www.maf-uk.org/get-involved/support-our-staff/andy-and-emma-dipper/>