

LUDVICEK FLIGHT REPORT

MAF BASE - NABIRE

MARCH 2022

Never A Wasted Moment

Do you ever find yourself wondering why things don't go as planned? In Papua it's hard to avoid those situations. Almost every flight day does not go as planned, everything we need at the store is all out, and we don't have enough stamps of approval to do what we need to do. It's easy to get frustrated (ask me how I know), but taking a 10,000' view we might get a different perspective.

Earlier this month I started my flight checks with the chief pilot, so that I can start flying again after our long furlough. The plan was to serve an airstrip that only 3 MAF pilots in Papua can land in (Because it's technically difficult and need to be checked out there first), and the chief pilot was one of them. We had to put the brakes on our initial plans when we got a call to pick up 2 hikers on a school trip interior, who couldn't make the trek back. Before the whiplash from the drastic change in plans could set in, we discovered God's providence in it all.



The chief pilot checking Mokendoma before landing



We picked up the hikers and dropped them off in Mokendoma where the rest of their team was. If that name sounds familiar, it's because that is the location for the MAF movie *Ends Of The Earth*, where the Ingles family serve the Wano people. After some conversation, a group of Wano men found out that I was the pilot involved in the plane burning incident last year and asked to get a picture with me.

This was not an opportunity to waste. Tim Ingles was able to translate for me how our Creator was clearly working during and after the event, and how the people of Pagamba had been transformed by the gospel, willing to risk their lives for mine. I shared my joy in continuing to serve Papuans, and that two of the men involved have given their lives to Christ. Although these two villages are separated by language and culture, they are geographically quite close. The weight of these pieces of the story hit "close to home" in many ways. It's moments like these that make a changed plan seem more like the actual plan all along. Just as Jesus was open to interruption, it is a good reminder to be faithful with the moments God presents.



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Back at it

After a long 7 month furlough, we have hit the ground running back here in Nabire, and we are starting our second term in Indonesia with so many changes, I think I'll just have to bullet point them for you:

- Lots of teammate transition: April last year a new family arrived to Nabire, starting January this year a long time family transitioned to another base, and sometime next year we are expecting another family to arrive.
- Jack, in addition to his regular homeschooling, has started attending Indonesian school. This immersive language learning (and no sleeping in) is a challenge for sure, but he is more than willing to brave the unknown for the sake of making some new friends.
- I am now "base manager." This involves things like overseeing both expat and national (Indonesian) staff in Nabire, and making sure ministry and flight operations run smoothly, all in addition to my flight duties. A tough and busy job for sure, but we also have a super committed and capable team to serve along side.



- We are now proud owners of both an *automatic* car, and a sweet puppy named Pepper. The car allows Trish to have more freedom with (or without) the boys. The dog is fun, but quite a handful!



PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Nabire is working hard to finish a new airport located about 45 minutes from town. While there is still a lot of work to do on this project, it presents quite a lot of logistical challenges for us as we contemplate how its opening will impact our daily life and operations.
- Continued grace over my new role, team interactions, daily life for our family, and Jackson's new schooling adventure.
- The possibility of me being able to return to the village of Pagamba (where my incident happened) and being able to open up that area again for flights.
- Praise for me receiving the visa needed to start flying again, and getting all the flight checks done to become operational.
- Praise for our new car, Jack's schooling and the pup.



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Thank you for your support
Peace and Love,
Alex, Trish, Jackson & Benaya

