

FLYING FOR LIFE

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF MAF IN AUSTRALIA

MAF

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 YEARS



Special Edition: Autumn 2025

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 YEARS

Welcome from the CEO

2025 is a significant year for MAF globally, as we celebrate 80 years of bringing help, hope and healing to isolated communities across the world. In this special edition of Flying for Life we take the opportunity to celebrate this milestone.

There's a lot happening this year for MAF in Australia too! We're continuing to support our families in the field, recruit new staff to join them, relaunch our Ambassadors (Advocates) program and expand our online prayer meetings and communities. We're also showcasing our new Cessna Caravan, as it tours the East Coast of Australia before heading to PNG, and continuing to help fund MAF's ever-growing global mission.

Please join me in giving thanks for those who have served and are serving with MAF, for the thousands of people who have been impacted by our ministry, and for people like you, who have prayed and supported this vital work.

We pray for God to be glorified in and through MAF, this year and beyond.



Chris Barnes
CEO, MAF in Australia

A few words from MAF International CEO

I stand amazed at what has transpired over 80 years of bringing help, hope and healing. The world is not the same, because thousands of courageous men and women were willing to leave the comforts of home, to reach into the most remote and isolated parts of our planet. Today, as we look back, we stand on the shoulders of all who have gone before us.

While the world has changed significantly, there are still millions of people who live in isolation and to whom we can bring help, hope and healing, using the tools that today's technology provides. MAF at 100 can, and should, be even stronger than it is today.

Together, we will strive to see a world where everyone can access help, hope and healing.

Our world is changing at an incredible pace. The ways of working in the past, will not serve the future. This is why we must find new ways of working, that will unite us even more and allow us to speak across the globe with one voice.



Dave Fyock
CEO, MAF International

BE ENCOURAGED!

As part of our special edition celebrating 80 years, we invited Bill Harding, a former CEO of MAF in Australia, to share some reflections and encouragement.



I've had the joy of serving in many roles with MAF, beginning as a board member of MAF NZ in the early 1990s. I then left my legal career for a year of full-time voluntary MAF promotional touring, held various roles with MAF in Africa during the 1990s before becoming CEO of MAF in Europe.

From 2003, I was the CEO of MAF in Australia for nearly 10 years. I'm currently the MAF International Development Director, responsible for increasing resources for MAF's ministry in Asia, and am also Head of Legal Services for MAF International.

A highlight of my time as CEO was helping three Australian supporters visit MAF in PNG. One of them was so moved by what he saw, that shortly afterwards he sold his family orchard to fund the establishment of the MAF program in Timor-Lesté (purchasing a GA8 aircraft and donating the first few years of costs).

I love that our mission mandate covers all aspects of Christian mission: enabling evangelism and discipleship, responding to needs with compassion, enhancing creation care and supporting development

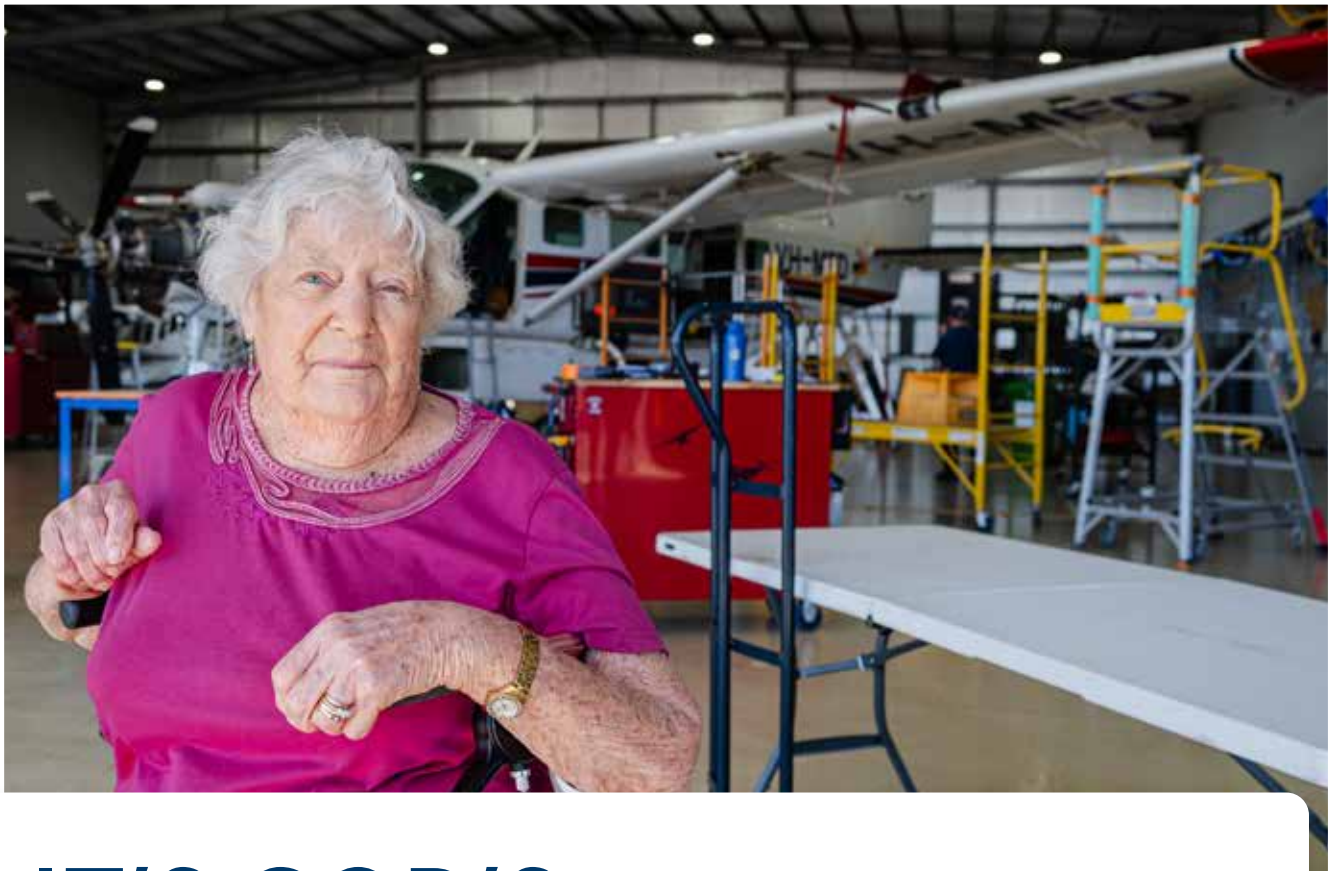
that increases equitable treatment of isolated people. Being part of this is an exceptional privilege.

My prayer is for every MAF supporter to learn what lack of access means and MAF's unique role in providing it, so they can share this knowledge and engage others to support the ministry.

I want to encourage our valued MAF supporters: you may be tempted to think the part you play in MAF's ministry is 'a drop in the bucket', but because you enable MAF to multiply the ministry of others, a little bit goes an extraordinarily long way - a little bit of funded flying, or your prayer support, can make a life-changing impact for someone, who would otherwise be isolated!

★★★★★

Image top left: Inauguration of an aircraft based at a remote PNG hospital. Image top right: Visiting a school in Bangladesh supported by MAF's amphibious aircraft.



IT'S GOD'S WORK ANYWAY



Margaret Baldock has been part of the ministry of MAF in Australia since the early years. Here, she shares some of her story, declaring God's sovereignty in her life and in the work of MAF.



Images: Margaret Baldock visiting MAF in Mareeba and MAF in Cairns, QLD in 2024

Monday, 6 August 1951 was a day that 24-year-old Margaret Hartwig had been looking forward to. She had been in Papua New Guinea for three months, and was finally unpacking crates and boxes and setting up house, while her husband Harry, Mission Aviation Fellowship's first pilot in Papua New Guinea, was out flying.

"All our things were still packed up from Melbourne and had been sent up there," said Margaret. "And so I spent the day unpacking everything, making up beds, and getting everything ready. And of course, Harry didn't come home."

Harry Hartwig was one of the founding members of MAF in Australia. On the day he went missing in the notorious Asaroka Gap in the Eastern Highlands, he was carrying freight back to Madang in his Auster Autocar, after flying a missionary and two local men to Asaroka.

Within a week of the accident, and three months from establishing the first MAF base in the southern hemisphere, Margaret was repacking her household belongings, to return to Australia with her one-year-old daughter, Beth.

**"I won't forget that day," she says.
"I couldn't believe what God had done.
It's still hard, but it happened."**

Margaret recovered from the tragedy, and eventually remarried and had more children. Today, as a 97-year-old, Margaret Baldock looks back on those events, from the vantage point of age.

"I couldn't see how, with all that had gone before, the work in PNG could ever start up again," she said. "Now I've gotten a bit older and I've realised it was all God's work anyway."

"He looked after it and cared for it, and I think it was partly because of the accident that He raised up many young people who became interested, and the prayer certainly increased over that period of time."

Ever since the accident, Margaret has been a staunch MAF supporter and fundraiser, and she was a founding member of the Aircraft Replacement Fund in the 2000s. Margaret is still keenly interested in aeroplanes, and she recently visited the Mareeba hangars and Flight Training Centre, on her first trip to Far North Queensland in 73 years.

"It's a miracle, when you think of how much a little plane costs," Margaret said. "When I saw them out at Mareeba at the airport, under repair, it was amazing to think how we started off without anything. Nothing. And God provided everything."

Margaret is part of MAF history and the legacy of faith, and she is grateful for God's faithfulness through the hard times and the good times.



"I give unending praise to God for what He has done. I've seen the work at Ballarat, the work at Coldstream, and the work in New Guinea, and seen MAF expand and go to other countries and help so many people. That's a big benefit, isn't it? How many have been saved because of MAF?"

★★★★★

**Watch the video to learn more
about Margaret and Harry
Hartwig's foundational story.**



Consider leaving a legacy gift

Margaret has kindly chosen to keep providing a lifeline beyond her lifetime by including a gift in her Will for MAF's mission.

**Learn more:
maf.org.au/gifts-in-wills**



MAF THROUGH THE DECADES

Over the following pages we take a journey through the decades, highlighting stories of God's faithfulness through MAF.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was founded in 1945, when Jim Truxton, Grady Parrott, Charlie Mellis and Betty Greene established the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship (CAMF) in the U.S., recognising aviation's potential for spreading the Gospel.

At the same time, New Zealand-born pilot Murray Kendon, along with Trevor Strong and British WWII veterans Stuart King and Jack Hemmings, shared a similar vision in the UK. In 1946, Murray travelled to the United States to meet CAMF, and their shared vision led to the formation of 'Missionary Aviation Fellowship,' laying the groundwork for a global organisation.

Meanwhile, three Australian WWII pilots - Flight Lieutenant Bruce Morton, Pilot Officer Harry Hartwig and Flight Sergeant Ken Cooper - felt called to use aviation for mission work, rather than war.

In 1946, they arrived at Melbourne Bible Institute (MBI), where they, along with other former RAAF men, prayed and planned for mission aviation in Australia. In 1947, Harry Hartwig strongly felt God's call to establish MAF in Australia. With MBI's support, a public meeting on 30 June 1947 formalised the creation of MAF Australia, linking it with the international movement.

★★★★★

These pioneers helped launch a worldwide network that continues to bring help, healing and the Gospel to remote communities through aviation.



1940s



A PIONEERING WOMAN

Elizabeth Everts "Betty" Greene made history as MAF's first pilot, taking flight in 1946. Passionate about mission aviation, she conducted surveys in Mexico, Ecuador, and Peru and became the first female pilot to cross the Andes. Her pioneering efforts inspired generations of women in aviation and missions.

Image: Mechanic Alistar MacDonald (left), pilot Betty Greene (centre), Assistant mechanic Nuoda (right), with Cessna 180 on floats at Malakal (either on the lagoon or on a tributary off the Nile).



Image: Yingiya Guyula, elder from the Liya-dhalinyimirr Djambarrpuyngu clan and first Yolngu pilot in Arnhem Land.

1970s



SERVING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

In 1973, MAF took over Reverend Harold Shepherdson's aviation mission in Arnhem Land, Australia. Establishing a base at Elcho Island, and a sub-base at Gove Airport, MAF provided Yolngu communities with access to food, education and healthcare. Today, MAF remains the only permanent air service in this region, supporting Indigenous communities, while respecting their cultural traditions.



Image: Nate Saint with Waorani village member.



1960s



EVANGELISM IN AFRICA

As part of his 1960 'Safari for Souls' in Africa, Billy Graham and his team flew 6,000 miles with MAF to reach remote communities. For one event, he flew from Nairobi, Kenya, to Moshi, Tanzania, where he preached to 35,000 people, with over 5,000 making a commitment to Christ.

Image: Billy Graham (left) and MAF pilot Ernie Krenzin (right) talk together before take-off from Nairobi West, Kenya, en route for the big meeting in the stadium at Moshi, Tanzania.

1950s



TRAGEDY AND TRANSFORMATION

In 1956, MAF pilot Nate Saint and four missionaries (Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully and Roger Youderian) were martyred while sharing the Gospel with Ecuador's Waorani people. Despite their loss, Nate's sister, Rachel Saint, and Jim Elliot's wife, Elisabeth, continued the mission. Their commitment led to the transformation of the Waorani, fostering forgiveness and reducing violence within the tribe. Their deaths also led to a surge of young people volunteering for missionary service.



Image: One of the early flights to April River airstrip in PNG.

1990s



RESPONDING TO CRISIS IN RWANDA

During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, MAF pilot Alistair Ripper flew into Ngara, Tanzania, to assist refugees. Initially called to evacuate Rwandan missionaries, MAF quickly expanded its operations, mobilising aircraft across three countries. For months, MAF pilots and ground staff worked tirelessly alongside UN officials and medical relief teams to bring aid to the broken nation.

1980s



REACHING VILLAGES IN PNG

In 1981, MAF opened an airstrip near April River, PNG. Pilot Max Chapman recalled his arrival at the remote village, where he was met by "150 whooping, over-excited warriors, wives and children, all in full paint and head-dress." Their enthusiasm marked the long-awaited arrival of the Gospel, bringing long-prayed-for hope to isolated people.

Image: Rwanda, 1994.



Image: Cessna 206 on road bringing boxes of essential relief supplies to the village of Alue Titi following the Boxing Day tsunami.



Image: Kevin White and his team install solar panels for electricity at the newly refurbished outstation of Telefomin.

2000s



TSUNAMI RELIEF IN INDONESIA

In 2004, MAF was among the first responders to the Boxing Day Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia. MAF conducted survey flights, and delivered over 40 tonnes of urgent food and medical supplies. With communication networks down, MAF established essential communication centres, and later focussed on rebuilding homes, schools and infrastructure, helping restore devastated communities.

2010s



EXPANDING COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

In 2010, the Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship became MAF Technologies, strengthening HF radio communication across PNG. The network, linking over 900 remote locations, facilitates life-saving medevac flights, receiving more than 4,000 calls annually. Additionally, MAF Technologies provide communities with internet access, enabling pastors and teachers to access vital ministry resources.



Image: MAF Guinea team celebrating first year of operation in April 2023.



Image: MAF's amphibious plane landing at Lake Murray, PNG.

2020s



TRANSFORMING GUINEA

In 2022, MAF launched operations in Guinea, one of the world's poorest nations. As the first humanitarian flight operator in the country, MAF partners with aid agencies and Christian missions to develop education, improve clean water access, enhance agriculture and share the Gospel, in this predominantly Muslim nation.

Today



MAF IN 2025 AND BEYOND

MAF continues to serve remote communities facing hunger, poverty and isolation. From its pioneering beginnings, to its role as a global mission aviation leader, flying to more destinations than any commercial airline in the world, MAF remains committed to bringing help, hope and healing to the world's most isolated people.

To learn more about our history, read 'On a Mission: using aircraft for peace in the aftermath of war,' which appeared in AV Buyer Magazine, August 2024. Scan the QR code to read the full article.





Brad Ballin
MAF Pilot & Engineer



Brian Creek
Former MAF Engineer

BUILD PLANES THAT BUILD THE KINGDOM

"Everyone's different. I'm wired to be a practical problem solver and I love working with my hands. The opportunity to serve the Lord and expand His kingdom while using technical skills in a cross-cultural mission team environment was awesome! MAF provides an ideal opportunity to put skills and faith to work and partner with the church and community groups as they serve people in the most isolated places in the world."

– BRIAN CREEK, FORMER MAF ENGINEER.

(Engineering apprentice at Ballarat from 1992 - 1995, then Engineer at Gove 1996 - 2006)

(photo above right)

Searching for something greater?

Perhaps, like Brian, you're a practical problem solver too. Serving with MAF, your skills and passion could become a tool for kingdom impact.

For 80 years, behind the MAF pilots soaring in the sky there have been dedicated Aircraft Maintenance Engineers—our unsung heroes, keeping people,

passengers, and cargo safe. One day, they might remove 2,000 screws to investigate an issue. Another, it's routine maintenance or upgrading a plane for better performance. MAF engineers make a tangible difference in remote communities, showing the love of Jesus through friendship and presence.

MAF needs you

MAF planes must be ready to fly anywhere, bringing vital healthcare, education, and the gospel to those in need. Our engineers make that possible.

Aircraft need servicing every 100 hours. Right now, some of our teams are short on engineers, leading to delays that impact lives. Every day a plane is grounded, someone waits longer for help. Could you be the engineer MAF is looking for?

Talk to us about using your skills and passion to practically share the love of Jesus with the world.

Contact our Recruitment Team on 1800 987 221 or email personnel@maf.org.au

A LIFELINE TO THE ISOLATED



Throughout the past 80 years, MAF has served in various capacities across 78 countries around the world, through long-term programs, resourcing operations and disaster response efforts.

Africa

Angola *
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad *
Democratic Republic of the Congo *
Ethiopia
Guinea *
Kenya *
Lesotho *
Liberia *
Madagascar *
Mali ^
Mozambique *
Namibia
Rwanda
Somalia
South Africa ~
South Sudan *
Sudan
Tanzania *
Uganda *
Zambia
Zimbabwe

North, Central & South America

Brazil *
Canada ^~
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador *
Guatemala *
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico *
Nicaragua
Peru
Suriname *
United States ^~
Venezuela

Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Dominica
Haiti *

Partner with MAF to fund
more firsts that bring help,
hope and healing today.



MAF's Impact Today



 **117** aircraft

 **135,000** passengers


 **1,000+** remote destinations

 **4,300,000 kg** of cargo

 **1,400** staff

 **75%** of staff are local employees

2023 MAF International data.

 Countries where MAF currently serves:

- * Flight Program
- ^ Ministers in
- ~ Resourcing Office

Europe

Albania
Denmark ~
Finland ~
France ~
Germany ~
Italy ~
Kosovo
Netherlands ~
Norway ~
Russia
Sweden ~
Switzerland ~
United Kingdom ^~

Middle East

Iran

Asia

Bangladesh
Cambodia
Hong Kong
India ~
Indonesia *~
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Singapore ~
Timor-Lesté *

Oceania

Australia *~
New Zealand ~
Papua New Guinea *
Solomon Islands



FUND MORE FIRSTS



The first plane landing

The first sound of a plane overhead means **unprecedented access**.

The first high school graduate means a **brighter future**.

The first Bible in their own language means **gospel hope****.

For 80 years, your support has made firsts happen for people in isolated communities.

Image below: Sikoi community with MAF plane after the first landing on the newly built airstrip.

Last year, a MAF plane made its first landing at an airstrip built by the Sikoi people in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with sticks and bush materials, and almost 28 years in the making. At the sight of the plane, the young people danced, and the older people shed tears of joy.

“We haven’t had any teachers, schools, health centres or healthcare workers here since 1975, not even an educated individual from our village. However, this day signifies a new beginning for Sikoi, and we acknowledge MAF and RAA (Rural Airstrip Agency) for bridging the gap that has been there for so long,” said local leader Enn Gandi.



The first Bible**

In Morobe Province low literacy rates and poor access have meant that most people haven't heard the Good News about Jesus, until MAF PNG flew hundreds of solar-powered audio Bibles in the local language to the region, in collaboration with the Fellowship of National Bible Churches (FNBC). As part of the initiative, Pastor Robert Hane from FNBC offered an opportunity to go deeper in discovering the Bible. Hundreds of people in Morobe Province heard the gospel for the first time in their own language, and more than 170 gave their lives to Christ and were baptised.

Pastor Robert Hane said, "The printed and audio Bibles have been an instrumental tool that assisted the participants to comprehend the word of God and I am truly grateful to MAF Technologies for their ongoing support".

Image above: Baptism of Morobe Province local after hearing the Gospel



The first high school graduates

Mougulu High School, founded in 2020, recently held its first graduation ceremony. In its remote location, the school has relied on MAF's support. Julianne Husio is among the school's first graduates. From Suabi in Papua New Guinea's Western Province, Julianne had returned home discouraged after struggling at school in Goroka, but determined to complete, she enrolled at Mougulu High School soon after it opened.

Julianne says, "I want to go to nursing college in Balimo to help my community."

Image above: Mougulu High School celebrates the Class of 2024 with their first-ever graduation ceremony.

Give Now

This is your opportunity to partner with MAF to fund more firsts that bring help, hope and healing today.

Find out more:
maf.org.au/campaign/fund-more-firsts



THE CHURCH: A PILLAR OF SUPPORT



The Church has been central to the mission and growth of MAF in Australia from its earliest days. Today, as churches continue to play a vital role in our ministry, we are praying for our partnerships to grow - in strength, depth and number.



The MAF movement in Australia traces its roots back to the Melbourne Bible Institute (now Melbourne School of Theology), where a group of former RAAF aircrew, then students at the college, began laying plans for an aviation mission. The MBI faculty stood firmly behind this small but determined group, nurturing their vision to reach isolated communities with aviation and the Gospel (see page 6).



Image at top: Archive photo of a church sharing about and supporting MAF. Image above: Women's prayer group and Bible study in Ballarat, Aus in the 90s.

Prayerful foundations

Prayer was a cornerstone of MAF's formative years, driven largely by the commitment of churches, especially around Melbourne.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Fortnightly prayer meetings, held in the basement of St Paul's Cathedral, brought believers together to intercede for the fledgling mission.

VERMONT ANGLICAN CHURCH

This evangelical congregation hosted regular prayer days, where participants spent hours in collective prayer, pausing only for lunch. By November 1947, just five months after MAF in Australia was officially established, the organisation began distributing prayer notes. These served as valuable tools for individuals and small groups to align in prayer for MAF's work.

ST JOHN'S TOORAK

Under the leadership of Canon Herb Arrowsmith, who held dual roles as the Commonwealth Secretary for the Bible Society and Chairman of the MAF Council, St John's became a hub of support. In 1949, on the church's front lawns, the MAF Tiger Moth - a vital aircraft for surveying Northern Australia - was dedicated alongside its crew, marking a significant milestone for the mission.

➡ Looking ahead

Over the past 80 years, Australian churches have remained a vital partners in MAF's work, providing prayer, financial support and a steady stream of people ready to serve.

Today, over 900 congregations around Australia support MAF through prayer and giving - and we would love to see that figure grow.

As we look to the future, the role of the church is as crucial as ever. Together, we rely on the continued support and faith of Australian congregations to bring help, hope and healing to some of the most remote and isolated corners of the world.

In 2025, we invite your church to partner with MAF's pilots, ground crew, engineers and field staff in serving isolated communities. In addition to providing vital support to missionaries, we work alongside organisations such as World Vision, Save the Children, Samaritan's Purse, Habitat for Humanity, YWAM and UNICEF to deliver vital services to some of the world's most remote regions.

Through your partnership, MAF becomes the hands, feet and heart of Jesus, bringing help, hope and healing to those in desperate need. Together, we can transform lives and make a lasting impact around the world.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Sunbury has a strong aviation connection with its location close to Tullamarine Airport. We love the MAF Fuel for Father's Day campaign and have a big display set up each year. Recently, the congregation made the decision to formalise our connection with MAF, by partnering with Melissa Higgins and supporting her prayerfully and financially. We have a regular 'mission spotlight' section in our services and delight in being able to share Mel's videos and prayer points with everyone."

– NARELLE RILEY, ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY VIC.



Image: St Mary's Anglican Church in Sunbury, VIC running a Fuel for Father's Day event.

Opportunities for your church to support MAF in 2025:

- ✓ Host a cineMAF night, showcasing MAF's inspiring journey.
- ✓ Invite a guest speaker to share inspiring stories of how MAF is changing lives worldwide.
- ✓ Organise events like a Fuel Good Morning Tea or Fuel for Father's Day in August or September.
- ✓ Hold a special offering or fundraising event to directly support MAF's flights and programs.
- ✓ Engage your youth and children's ministry with aviation-themed activities, emphasising service and missions.
- ✓ Pray as a congregation for MAF's pilots, staff, and the communities they serve.
- ✓ Support a specific project or field staff that resonates with your church's mission focus.
- ✓ Volunteer with MAF, helping with events, administration, or other local opportunities.

Learn more about how your church can partner with MAF to make a difference today!





80 YEARS OF GRATITUDE



As we consider God's faithfulness in and through MAF, here we share some messages of gratitude from across our movement including staff, partner organisations, supporters and missionaries.

ALWYN WILLIAMS Coalfields Baptist Church, WA

"As a young boy I loved planes, and at 95 years old, I still look up at their sound. Many years ago, we had a MAF Field Day at the Cessnock Aerodrome. With Scenic Flights and information about the Mission, I was left with a lasting impression.

I am grateful for MAF and their wonderful ministry, reducing travel, bringing care to the sick and supplies to the isolated missionary and others. This work is worthy of our support."

SERV INTERNATIONAL, KENYA

"We run a food program in Turkana county and have been actively distributing food for the past 15 years. During this time, we have experienced multiple famines in the region and have been able to respond with teams to support. This was made possible through flights chartered through MAF."



Image: SERV International, Serving Orphans in Kenya.

JUMENIA

Nurse, National Service of
Ambulance and Medical
Emergency, Timor-Lesté

"It's very difficult for us to transfer patients from the rural areas by roads because the distance and the problem of the roads makes it take hours to reach the national hospital. Travelling from Viqueque to Dili by car would normally take 6 hours, but with MAF, it just takes 35 minutes."



GLENDIA GILES

English teacher and translator,
Papua New Guinea

"MAF has been a bridge here in PNG, bringing young people from remote communities into modern society.

The educated sons and daughters of remote people are now making their mark as they bring a Christian perspective to many aspects of life in this fast-growing and restless country.

As MAF planes fly daily over the rough terrain of PNG, they are bringing light into places of darkness, healing to those who suffer, hope to those who previously felt so hopeless. Thank you God and thank you MAF!"

Image above: Glenda Giles with teacher trainers in Wewak, PNG.



JOE FARREN

Pilot in Timor-Lesté

"It was such a blessing to see the smiles, laughter and joy on the faces when I flew a plane full of people who had never flown before.

It really was the joy of the Lord manifesting itself through the amazing opportunities He gives us to be a witness in Timor-Lesté."

Image above: Joe Farren with children in Timor-Lesté.



LINSEY PAINTER

Serving with her husband Matt,
Communications Manager for
Asia Pacific Region, Cairns

"It's such a joy to see how the Bible Box initiative, which Matt began when we were in PNG, is still going strong.

So many people have such a hunger for the Word of God and are able to access it from the back of a MAF plane."

Image above: Bible Box initiative in Tekin, PNG.

MARGARET MAAG

Missions Coordinator,
Lighthouse Gospel Church, QLD

"When I visited my son Keith and his wife Suellyn, in whatever location they served with MAF, in Arnhem Land or Papua New Guinea, I could see the impact that MAF staff, resources and aircraft have on local people; how much they appreciated the presence of MAF as they would not have survived earthquakes, floods, landslides, etc.

The skill of MAF Pilots is legendary and I thank God for how He has led them to face many flights in challenging conditions and brought them safely home.

They could not achieve what they do without the support of aircraft engineers and administrative staff. I'm convinced prayer is the foundation that keeps MAF operating. I value meeting with the MAF Prayer Group at Peninsula Palms, as well as receiving Fuelled By Prayer to pray for the needs of MAF as they arise."

To find out how you can
support MAF through
prayer, visit:
maf.org.au/pray



THEN AND NOW

We look back at some snapshots of MAF’s ministry in two locations, where we still remain committed to serving God through aviation today.



MAF first surveyed Kenya in 1948, during Stuart King and Jack Hemmings’ pioneering trip to Africa.

They wrote, “Off by air to Narok. Here we were met by the missionary in charge - Mr Shaffer - of the A.I.M. station at Seyabei. We went with him by road to the National Holiness Mission (who’d requested a visit) at Sotik. This is a 70-mile journey across the Masai plains... The road was very, very rough and certainly seemed to be shaking one’s insides about in a most unkindly fashion... We then gathered a little first-hand knowledge of what happens to the Kenya roads under such conditions. In spite of chains the truck skidded all over the ‘road’ [and] got stuck completely at one point.”*

Experiencing the harsh realities of poor roads, and recognising the challenges faced by missionaries in Kenya, led MAF to begin operations there in 1959, providing a vital solution to overcome impassable routes. Although there have been significant developments in Kenya, decades later, poor roads remain a challenge in some regions, such as Turkana.

In 2024, MAF launched an air route to Turkana to support organisations delivering medical supplies, educational resources and humanitarian aid.

A snapshot of MAF in Kenya [^]	
634 flight hours	504 flight legs
1,749 passengers	56 destinations
158,000 km flown	
8,882 kg of cargo	
3 planes	30 staff
4 international staff	26 local staff
87 partner organisations	

Sign of Hope, one of our valued partner organisations, relies on MAF to reach remote communities efficiently and safely, bypassing dangerous roads. From delivering emergency flood relief to transporting personnel, MAF remains committed to bringing help and hope to communities still hindered by poor infrastructure.

*Excerpt from ‘The Mildmay Outlook’, July/August, 1948.
[^]2023 MAF International data.

Papua New Guinea



A snapshot of MAF in PNG[^]

5,719 flight hours

9,919 flight legs

35,251 passengers

185 destinations

1,138,341 km flown

1,609,058 kg of cargo

10 planes

142 staff

33 international staff

109 local staff

70 partner organisations

For over 70 years, MAF has supported missionaries in Papua New Guinea, enabling gospel outreach and improving lives in remote communities.

From 1982 to 1994, Carin and Dale LeRoy relied on MAF in their church-planting ministry in the Western Province. "MAF brought us all we needed," Carin said. "They made it possible for us to stay and minister."

MAF delivered food, medical supplies and work teams. It also played a personal role, flying them for births and back with their newborns. "Our children loved 'our' pilots, and every plane arrival was a village event." When their son had a medical emergency, MAF flew in doctors and transported him to the hospital. "Without MAF, our son likely wouldn't have survived," Carin shared.

Today, MAF continues its mission. Pilot Bridget Ingham recently flew Pastor Jim Balus and his team to Hewa, where they trekked two days to Minim Village to teach literacy and share God's Word with people. "We are helping them read the Bible for the first time and become leaders in their church," Pastor Jim said.

"...The LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."

- ISAIAH 61:1 NIV

From supporting the LeRoys' ministry decades ago, to enabling Gospel outreach in Minim today, MAF remains a vital partner for mission in PNG.

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