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Upcoming events:

- Orientation—Mt Hagen, PNG: Thurs 8th—12th Mon
- POC—Madang, PNG: Tues 13th May—27th June

Matt's Prayer Points:

- Praise & thanks for God's provision of prayer & financial support
- Spiritual growth
- Adapt to all the changes taking place
- 6 week cultural training course in Madang (POC)
- Developing new relationships & maintaining old ones back home
- Refresh/equip/grow in skills for Engineering
- Strength, teachable, protection, health & wisdom
- Car to sell back home for a good price



WSAC Family & Visitors



Volume 1, Issue 1

January—April 2008

Final Preparations

Welcome to my first newsletter, hopefully the first of many. The last four months have been quite a large scale of final preparations. I spent all of January in Melbourne for training. The first two and a half weeks was spent at Bible College of Victoria for cross cultural transition training. This was a valuable experience with many lessons learnt. The main lesson for me, was about making a smooth transition into a new culture, you need to say goodbye to your old culture properly. Following this I spent two weeks in Marysville at El Kanah for MAF orientation, which is about 40 mins out from BCV. It was a real blessing to undergo orientation with current and new MAF staff. It really renewed my excitement and passion for MAF. Which was a real answer to prayer. As I had lost a lot of that during my year of Bible College. Returning to Sydney at the start of February was quite difficult. On leaving Melbourne I was personally ready to head to PNG. So it was really hard to return home and continuing preparation. I had roughly three months in preparing for PNG. The first two needs that needed to be

addressed were a place to live until leaving and work, as I had no income for two months and my current lease was ending. And God again showed his faithfulness, providing rent free accommodation in Seven Hills (ideal location) and work as a contractor Engineer out at Richmond Air Force base (ideal work!) very easily. During this time Final preparations included my visa applica-



Commissioning Service 4th May

tion, raising prayer and financial support at various churches, paperwork, moving house twice, packing and continuing in ministry. In late February my Grandmother Jean Preece passed away. Which was a big shock for me and family. As we were planning on celebrating her 90th birthday with her in mid April and she had good health. It was a good reminder of how precious life is and how our time being up is so uncertain, but also a difficult time for

the family. I had great peace, knowing that her trust and hope was in Jesus. It was a real blessing working out at Richmond again, not just getting back into Engineering, but also to see old work mates. And seeing the big spiritual need out there, made it quite difficult in leaving. The last two weeks prior to leaving for PNG, saw many things take place. Probably the busiest two weeks I have experienced for sometime and the last one being the most stressful. Some activities prior to leaving included a two day coastal walk in the Royal National Park, two nights on a houseboat on the Hawkesberry River, a wedding interstate, my Commissioning Service, WSAP Youth farewell and dinner at Lonestar Steak ranch, just to name a few. It is hard to sum up the past four months with so little words. But I am so thankful for God's strength, faithfulness, leading and his timing. The way he has brought EVERYTHING together and provided for every need. And the way he has been preparing me and sustaining me.

Arrived!

I left Sydney on Tuesday morning the 7th of May. I always imagined that the days leading up to leaving would be quite hard and emotional. But I did not find it that way. I really had comfort and peace

about it all. It still was not easy saying goodbye, time ran out very quickly. And I struggled in saying goodbye to people. I guess God has been preparing me for this transition. My first round of grieving started

when I first found out my destination. Round two started when at transition training, which was really difficult. I am sure round three will start very soon. After two days of travelling I arrived safely Wednesday



MAF Family at MAF Orientation Jan 2008

“On Wednesday I found out that I have met the minimum amount of support (35%) required, once those amounts still to come in, do come in and are processed!”



Aarrgghh! WSAP Youth Guy Leaders aboard houseboat on the Hawksberry River



Enjoying the coastal view



Hiking crew stopping for lunch

Arrived (Cont)...

afternoon. It has been great to make it here, two and a half years since I was last here. It is such a victory to be here, after so much work and preparation over the years. It feels like I was here not that long ago. It has been really good to see old friends again. Yesterday was my first day of orientation, which included getting my driver's license, doing my grocery shopping, having dinner with my host family and having a bit of a rest, the first time I have really stopped in a few weeks. Today I went out to the hanger to have a tour and to meet all the staff. Was really good to see the National staff again, especially the Engineers. Really looking forward to starting work out there. Also sorted out my cargo paperwork. There is still a few things to do for orientation, going to the local market, setting up a bank account and a few other things. I am heading to Madang on Tuesday for six weeks for a Pacific Orientation Course (POC) which is run by SIL (Wycliffe). I am the first MAF staff to attend this course. The main purpose of this course is to assist

new workers to adjust to the Melanesian and field cultures so that they can live harmoniously, comfortably, contentedly and productively in most circumstances. The primary focus is learning to relate cross-culturally with Melanesians and with fellow students. This includes five weeks of different activities to help you make a transition into your new culture,



Kagamuga Airport, Mt Hagen

which involves language learning and other activities. The other week is spent living in a village. So it should be a real valuable experience. There have been a few things that have stood out to me since being here. I think the main thing is the smell. I don't have much sense of smell left, but its a unique smell which I remember. All the other differences, I don't know

how to describe. I guess that's what has been so good to have been here before, that it isn't all new. But it did hit me a bit on Wednesday that this is now home for two years, which is a bit daunting. I am really looking forward to getting settled and developing new relationships here. I really want to thank you all for your support, prayers, love and encouragement. It has been quite overwhelming at times. The commissioning service & WSAP farewell were such a blessing. On Wednesday when I was in Cairns, I found out that I have met the minimum amount of support (35%) required, once those amounts still to come in, do come in and are processed! So that is a big answer to prayer and good timing! God has really been taking care of not just the big details, but the small details as well. I wish I could share more, but I will have to restrain myself. I may have to start writing a blog. Until next time, same MAF channel, same MAF time...

Sincerely
In Christ,
Matt

09/05/08



Raising support at Western Sydney Alliance Church



Bay & Abel helping move house second time round