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Upcoming events:

- Settling into life in Mt Hagen
- Fixing up the Land-cruiser
- Studying for CASA exams
- MAF ministry team

Matt's Prayer Points:

- The Family of Hadliegh Smith & MAF staff serving in Arnhem Land
- Thanks for a good cultural transition so far
- Spiritual growth
- Developing new relationships & maintaining old ones back in Australia
- Refresh/equip/grow in skills for Engineering
- For strength, to be teachable, for protection, health & wisdom
- Thanks for God's provision of a car for a real good price

Back to work

The last four months I have spent settling into life in Mt Hagen and working out at the hanger. So much has happened in the last few months. Being refreshed into engineering, making new friends, visiting different churches, looking for a car and buying one, adapting to the changes of lifestyle and routine, experiencing a lockdown, seeking and waiting for other opportunities to serve outside of engineering, moving house, a PMV trip to Goroka, two MAF confederences, attending various MAF events. One of the main changes for me has been settling into work. Prior to coming back to PNG, I had quite a few concerns. One of the big ones was getting back into engineering, as it had been close to 18 months for me to be working consistently. But also adjusting to the big differences there comes with working in general aviation (small aircraft) to big commercial and military aircraft (my

background). But it has been quite amazing to see how quickly I have been able to adjust and settle into the changes at work. It was sort of like lifting off from when I was last here. God has really enabled me to adjust to these changes.



Engine work on a C206

I know that I have a lot to learn and I am surrounded by some well experienced Engineers. For the first time, I always look forward to going to work. One other of many challenges was settling into the changes here socially and living standards. My social life has changed quite a lot. But after several weeks here, the surroundings around me, despite such a big contrast to back home.

Seem normal to me and I know that hopefully one day if I make it back to Aus, it will be a big culture shock for me. I have not really experienced any home sickness while being here. But there are times I miss certain people or certain things, especially food and the beach. But despite the great changes and the difference in surroundings and culture I have really settled in well. One area that continues to be an on going development. Is settling into a local church and other ministries. But doors are being opened. The main church I have been attending lately is the Mt Hagen United church and have been attending the youth group there Friday nights when I can. Despite having a really good transition so far, I know that the settling in process still takes time. I am so grateful for the way things have gone so far. And know that I could not serve and live here, unless God wants me here.



MAF PNG Staff & Family @ Conference 08



Engine installation on a GA8

Mt Engkiki

There has been many highlights the past few months. One of them would be a hike with some of the engineering staff one Saturday back in August. Our aim was to climb Mt Engkiki who's peak is about 8000ft above sea level. Then to hike across a mountain ridge down into a village for lunch. For me I was glad just to be able to get outside of Mt Hagen and do some-

thing outdoors, as there is not a wide variety of things



The Boys at the summit

to do here. We travelled by a so called road for about

an hour to one of the national staff's village. Where we were greeted by many people and started the walk with properly a large population of the kids there participating with us. I had found all the hiking I did in the lowlands not that hard. As we climbed higher and higher I could noticed the difference in altitude, as my body could not get as much oxygen out of the air as at the



The view from the summit



Place of residence in Mt Hagen



Combined HQ Mt Hagen Staff Conference

Mt Eugkiki (cont)

lower altitude. As we made it to the peak of the mountain, it was quite narrow at parts and I became quite nervous. I had never been to such a narrow peak of a mountain before. It was quite a steep descent up the mountain, but the view from top is one of the greatest sights I have ever seen. I could of spent all day up there just taking in the view. After sometime on top, we travelled back

down the peak where we would travel along the ridge line. As we did this and descended into the valley, we travelled through different villages and met different people. It always amazes me where people live here. After sometime the group became a lot smaller and was now just the guys from engineering. We arrived at our lunch location (the village of another staff member) after

five hours of travelling. There a few others had taken the van we travelled in and had prepared lunch. We were to have a national meal cooked in a ground oven, a mu mu (which means ground oven). I really love hiking and enjoyed the adventure. But the highlight was just being able to spend time with some of the national staff outside of work time. It was a great time of fellowship.

Loss of a friend & brother



“Hadleigh Smith gave his life while serving God as a pilot in Arnhem Land with MAF on the 16th October. His loss has been hard to process. Please pray for his family and the Arnhem Land MAF staff during this difficult time. Also for the recovery of Hadleigh and his aircraft from sea.”

MAF Ministry Team

One of the challenges i have faced is leaving all my responsibilities and opportunities of serving back home and not having as many here. Coming here I wanted to do more than just Engineering. But Engineering and living amongst the people here is my main ministry. God challenged me during this time, that if I made myself available he would open doors. A door was opened with the MAF ministry team. Who is made up MAF staff who go out to disciple and evangelise visiting villages and churches. The ministry had been quiet for a few months. But the last two months has been quite active. Normally taking place over a Friday night or week-

end, either being invited or offering to visit. The highlight so far was going out to a village called Pontus after



Sharing my testimony

work on a Friday. Interesting enough it was the same village that we started our Mt Engkiki hike. Which is the village of one of our national staff. This village had been involved in tribal fighting with it's neighbouring village

for the last four years, with about twenty people being killed during that time. Only in the last few months has there been no fighting. So we went with the message of forgiveness. We did several different items MAF awareness presentation, two testimonies (I had the privilege of sharing my testimony), a song, a little message and watched the movie End of the Spear. And we overnighted in the village. There was over 200 people there easily and they were challenged and blessed. It was a real blessing being able to travel out and minister to these people. It's a great opportunity to serve outside of Engineering with the ministry team and it's great that it's apart of MAF.



New wheels for a really good price!



Some of the crowd at Pontus



PMV adventure to Goroka