



PNG SIM Card

Vol 57,
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2020

Greetings to all our wonderful supporters and family. Where ARE we? What has happened to us recently? We expect that you may be wondering, so we have prepared an update.

So much has happened in such a short space of time that we decided to give you an update on our current situation. At the last SimCard, we were



both very much engaged in our lives with MAF PNG in Mt Hagen. However, today we are in “lock down” in New Zealand. The coronavirus has had a far reaching impact on MAF International and especially felt in operational country programmes like PNG, and more specifically for us in relation to the “at risk” category of (international) missionary staff, which we fall into.

Near the end of February, we were both in Melbourne for a family wedding for a week. Godfrey returned to duty in PNG whilst Glen popped across the ditch to Christchurch to re-tenant our house and be there to clear (through Customs) some stuff we had shipped over from Melbourne. She was due to join Godfrey back in PNG on the 26th of March. By Sunday the 15th March MAF International together with our wonderful MAF PNG leader decided that; Glen should not return to PNG, and that Godfrey should leave ASAP to join her, thus reducing the risks of holding staff in PNG.

The signs of the COVID-19 spread and the inability of the PNG health system to cope when it finally hit the vulnerable communities were clear. No cross border medical evacuations would be possible if someone was critically ill and there would be no oxygen or ventilation treatment available. Glen and I are not critical to the flight operations of MAF and so the quick exit for Godfrey was a “no brainer”.

So Godfrey slipped through Brisbane overnight “self-isolating”, and as soon as he arrived in CHCH Glen met him “at a distance” with a car and supplies for his two week self-isolation at a batch in Hanmer Springs, organized through dear friends at our (home) Grace Vineyard church. After testing negative for COVID-19 Glen joined him there just prior to the “lock-down” in New Zealand.

Current accommodation in NZ



We are so grateful that we are so well cared for and have such a restful beautiful place (*above*) to be in our “bubble”. What a privilege to be part of the MAF ‘family’, the Grace ‘family’ and our own families.

We are on “standby” with regard to MAF work and returning to PNG, maybe just Godfrey initially, whilst Glen is looking forward to moving into our house after Lockdown, when we are free to move around again and collect our personal effects to furnish it.

Regarding MAF in PNG: here is a note from our Flight Operations Manager a couple of weeks ago:

“The last few months here in PNG have been quite tough for MAF. There is only 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 in PNG at the moment, but we are in a state of lock down for 14 days which started on Tuesday 24th March. This means no international travel, no domestic flights and other travel restrictions. We are required to maintain social distancing and group gatherings are restricted, although this does not apply on our compound because we live in such close proximity. We can still interact with the other families on the compound and have had some good times of fellowship and shared meals!

Godfrey at home in the bush





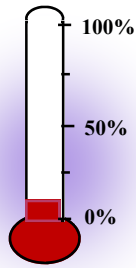
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**2020 Financial
Support Target**

Prayer Points

- Praise God for His provision of a house to live in during the NZ Total Lockdown in response to COVID19.
- Pray for a new medical issue that Godfrey is dealing with and for a prompt appointment once the lockdown is over
- Pray that the MAF-PNG situation allows for flying to recommence without putting our rural communities at risk
- Pray for the PNG Leadership Team as they consider the return to work details for absentee staff.

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25: 4-5

Over the last few months, we have also had 3 aircraft incidents. Fortunately the Lord protected everyone and there were no injuries. In all 3 incidents, the aircraft ran off the runway and the propeller hit the ground (which means major engine inspections and new propellers) and in two of the incidents, the aircraft wings were also damaged. One aircraft is still at the bush airstrip and at this time we are unable to get it back to Mount Hagen because of the flying restrictions in PNG at the moment. (Arrangements and permissions are now almost complete for this plane's retrieval).

As a result of these incidents, MAF PNG is in a state of suspended operations until we can decide on the best way to recommence operations and conduct investigations into the causes and put measures in place to prevent this from happening again. Our MAF suspension of operations happened to coincided with the country wide lockdown."

Godfrey's partnership 'projects' are mostly on hold and those that are moving forward slowly will be managed by other senior staff in-country, with contact for dialogue still available on line.



Glen's MAF roles have all been handed over so that's a relief. Her involvement with Highlands Christian Grammar is now in an advisory capacity. Classes are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 related restrictions, whilst the decision on moving to a permanent site and the huge fundraising required to "build a school" is on hold.

We do so appreciate your continued support and prayer during this challenging time of uncertainty and ask for prayer for the MAF leadership as they conceive a plan of what MAF will look like, and navigate the challenges in



the face of great need. And so we also ask for you to **join us in praying** for the vulnerable millions of folks in PNG's rural sector as the threat of COVID-19 comes nearer without any hope of medical care (treatment or prevention) on the horizon.

We pray that the restricted movement regulations are adhered to and can create a lag time long enough for a vaccine to 'arrive' in volumes necessary to immunize the bulk of the population. The recent drive to immunize children in PNG against Polio was an example of the International support needed to enable PNG to get significant cover. If and when a COVID-19

immunization campaign can happen, it will be so much bigger than the Polio drive. But until then, if the Corona Virus takes off, it will be devastating for our valued PNG communities in both urban and rural sectors. Sadly this will be reflected in many other developing-nation contexts globally.

Please, do all take care of yourselves (in all aspects of your lives) and may the God of peace be your every comfort and inspiration.



Support Details

Bank: ANZ **Branch:** Papukura
Branch code: 060583 **Account no:** 0528842 01
Ref: Sim 526

If you would like to support us to continue our work in PNG, contact MAF-NZ office. Bank details are above:

Bye for now,

Godfrey & Glen Sim