



When the **MAF Plane** Doesn't Come

Dear Friend,

Slips. Washouts. Floods. Isolation. Communication cuts. Supply routes out.

Suddenly New Zealand starts to feel the same way that many in Papua New Guinea live their entire lives – days of bush whacking through jungle in a medical emergency ... if it wasn't for that welcome sound of the drone of a MAF plane.

How wonderful that countless organisations rallied huge resources after Gabrielle by land, sea and air to reach our people. Our MAF plane here in Tauranga was available. Who would have thought that it would be used to fly supplies to the East Coast and medical equipment to Whitianga!



We love the stories along the lines of *When the MAF Plane Comes*. What is it like *When the MAF Plane **Doesn't** Come*? When MAF is the only organisation making the difference between life and death?

A heartbreaking plea for the urgent medevac of a sick little girl in the highlands of Papua New Guinea emphasised the importance of MAF planes being able to reach isolated communities.

Pastor Joe's daughter Julie was unconscious and in need of medical care when a call was made to MAF PNG's Mt Hagen based pilot Mathias Glass for help late on Saturday afternoon.



The caller asked: "Is MAF flying to Mt Aue? The daughter of our pastor is unconscious, and the parents are very worried about losing her."

Mathias Glass told the caller that the airstrip was closed for MAF's operation at present. Flight Operations Manager Brad Venter was consulted to see if authorisation could be granted. Unfortunately, the overgrown and poorly maintained state of the rural airstrip meant a flight would be too unsafe.

"I had to make the hard decision at the time that a landing in Mt Aue was not acceptable," Brad said.



A 3-day trek instead of a 25-minute flight

Without access to a MAF flight, the family set out on a long walk for treatment, but miraculously Julie's condition improved during the arduous trek, and his friend and missionary Ruedi Meier described the miracle that happened when MAF was unable to reach the community...

"Their eight-year-old daughter Julie had to be carried at the beginning because she could hardly breathe. During the three-day walk, however, God performed a miracle on Julie. She regained her strength and was able to carry herself over the mountains."

When the missionary hosted the family the week after the desperate plea for a medevac, he said, "You could hardly tell Julie was sick. We were so thankful to God that Julie is alive. God is still doing miracles today!"



Ps Joe and wife Dora and daughter Julie.



Our heartbeat, and I know it is yours too, that the MAF Plane **Does** Come, whenever and wherever it is needed.



Mark Fox, CEO MAF NZ

Friend, will you join us to ensure the planes continue to fly where needed to bring hope, help and healing to those in remote communities.

The end of the financial year (31st March) is just around the corner. **So urgently, make a gift before then, to receive your tax deductible rebate in this financial year.**

Thank you for your partnership.



Remember "One Last Push" ... to get the renovation of the Kendon Strong MAF Centre over the line and finished so we can concentrate on our core mission?

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity in making that happen ready for the Dedication and Grand Opening on 2 April at 2.00pm. We would love to see you there.