

MAF Update – Papua New Guinea

The people laid down their arrows

“Before God’s word came to Telefomin, the Min people here just thought about fighting. They were angry,” says Mama Nunta Markis. “They would just get an arrow and shoot each other.” Tribal conflict was a part of daily life and fear was a constant companion. Mama Nunta is one of a shrinking number of people who remember when the Good News came to this highland valley.

“A long time ago, MAF first came here in a time of war.” Not knowing that they were being led by the Holy Spirit, Mama Nunta’s husband and his friends overcame the fear and went to the missionaries under cover of night. They became believers and began to encourage others to say “No” to war – and the people began to lay down their arrows, and the area was transformed by the Gospel.

“With MAF here, Telefomin has been able to develop,” says Nunta. Her son, Nathan adds, “Every Min kid who grew up with MAF will say, ‘MAF is a part of me’. MAF has been everything to us.” Nathan now works as the Director of Nursing and Administration with Min Baptist Health Services, with their staff flying in over the same mountains that MAF first crossed. “Without MAF, we would not be where we are today.”

(Condensed from a story in MAF’s ‘Flying For Life’ magazine, Winter 2026)