

MAF Update – Papua New Guinea

Karl, Helene, Ayla and Thea Orchard

This family is from the Wellington region and have been with MAF in Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 2024.

Karl is serving as IT Manager for the MAF PNG programme, ensuring that IT services are kept operational in the complex conditions presented across the 10 MAF Bases throughout PNG. Karl uses his extensive knowledge in IT engineering, designing, networking, and cybersecurity, plus experience operating radio and satellite systems learnt during a 15 year career in the NZ Defence Force and other NZ Government agencies.

Helene has a degree in counselling and now works as a full time mum home-schooling their two daughters. In addition to this Helene is serving MAF PNG as an Orientation Committee Member and as a Compound Coordinator.

Karl and Helene are leaders of The Way Collective, a network of home churches who are a disciple-making movement, equipping everyday followers of Jesus to be everyday missionaries in their everyday lives.

And matters for prayer 25 Sept:

Karl is currently flying round the country to at least 3 places per day to check equipment.

People are killed everyday in the Mt Hagen area. A boy in their community was run over by a car so now the whole community has to pay compensation to the boy's family. A huge financial burden for the that community.

They have had some rain but need more.

To not burn out from their various responsibilities.

As compound coordinator there is responsibility to provide meals for guests and MAF people who are returning to the compound.

Weekend of discipleship training - pray for pastors to come from the many Mt Hagen churches. Pray this happens well once a date is set.

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)