



If you haven't received our new 2021 Staff Prayer Handbook (which this prayer guide refers to) and would like to, please email [maf@maf.org.au](mailto:maf@maf.org.au), call 1800650169 or write to PO Box 7187 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153.

## **Week 1 May 2nd: Madagascar**

- Purdey Family (p.6) - We are giving thanks for 1 year serving the people of Madagascar. Please pray for our family as we continue to try to communicate in French and Malagasy, for fast learning and understanding, and that we will continue to persevere and be encouraged in our efforts. Please also pray for the country of Madagascar as Covid-19 cases are on the rise again and further restrictions are being discussed. Give praise for the recent medevac flights MAF has been able to do to get patients to Tana where they can receive more adequate medical care than in the villages, despite restrictions that are making it difficult to do such medevac flights. Pray for wisdom for the team as they work with the regulations so that more flights for MAF are possible.

## **Week 2 May 9th: Arnhem Land**

- Carpenter Family (p.3) - We are giving thanks that Catharine has completed her Certificate IV course in Training & Assessment and her First Aid Certificate. Please pray for the recent amalgamation of another group into the Yirrkala Church (that we attend) which has resulted in relational/leadership difficulties. Please pray for wisdom for resolution of these issues.
- Simmonds Family (p.4) - Please pray for MAF flights as the wet season continues to bring unpredictable and difficult weather. Please pray for flight safety and wisdom for our pilots. Give thanks that Mark's parents are coming to volunteer to help paint a MAF house during April and May. Please pray for health, safety and no border restrictions as they are coming from Melbourne. Please pray as MAF Arnhem Land is part of a local conversation about a joined-up Medevac service for remote communities. This is an exciting opportunity to serve, and we want to play our part in this with integrity and wisdom. Ask God for His guidance and favour as we look for the best way forward.

## **Week 3 May 16th: Timor-Leste**

- Please pray for our team members in Timor-Leste who have recently experienced flooding and have had to find temporary housing.
- Simmonds Family (p.4) - Please pray for our operations in Timor-Leste as we try to work to get flight tests conducted for the new pilots to the program so they can begin flying. Praise God a potential fuel situation in Timor-Leste was resolved and we did not need to suspend flights.

## **Week 4 May 23rd: Staffing**

- Pray for those in leadership as they continue to navigate through uncertain and ever-changing times. Pray that they have wisdom and discernment when making tough decisions.
- Crime is seemingly on the increase in a number of the places we work. Pray for protection and security over our staff and property as we seek to be a blessing in these communities.
- Please pray for our staff to stay healthy, to be renewed and refreshed in their commitment to love God, to walk humbly with Him and to keep in peace.
- Pray that God will provide all of our organisational needs – financial, physical and spiritual.
- Many of the countries where we work are seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases. Pray for our teams as they serve in this tough season and for protection over their health.
- Pray for all staff who are waiting to travel – either for home assignment, or to get to their program – pray that the way will be opened up for them to get to where they need to be.

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# A Little Note

I have just spent two glorious weeks travelling around the beautiful state of Tasmania. My family have a long history with the island, having first arrived as free settlers in 1823, almost 200 years ago.

The recent trip prompted me to spend some time exploring the locations from the stories of my family's adventures in Tasmania that were compiled by my mother's cousin several years ago. From the Derwent River where an ancestor sailed into Van Dieman's Land after running away from home at aged 12, to Deloraine where my grandmother was born, to La Trobe where my parents met, Devonport where my grandparents honeymooned, Scottsdale where my great something Uncle came from before he died fighting at Gallipoli, Elizabeth Town that was actually named after one of my ancestors and where the family's grand house still exists, to Car Villa Memorial Park in Launceston where lies the gravesites of my greatx5 grandparents, who were the first to move to Van Dieman's land with their nine young children in 1823.

While still a big adventure, uprooting your family and moving to the other side of the world nowadays would be no where near the big step that it was for my ancestors. I haven't read anywhere the reason behind their decision to move to Van Dieman's land but I truly salute their courage, faith and sense of adventure to do so.

The experience has made me reflect on my own level of braveness and courage to step out of all that is familiar and comforting, and I must admit I am way down on the scale of boldness in this respect. The Bible is full of stories of people who boldly stepped out in faith in response to God's calling on their lives, just like our many MAF missionaries who are serving around the world. Throughout the Bible also we are encouraged to have courage:

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:6*

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9*

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." - 1 Corinthians 16:13*

*"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the Lord do what seems good to him." - 2 Samuel 10:12*

*"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" - Psalm 27:14*

*"And He said, 'O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.' And as He spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, 'Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.'" - Daniel 10:19*

*"But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'" - Matthew 14:27*

My hope as we continue along this year, is that I will be receptive to God's voice calling me to be bold and step out with courage into new things, whatever they may be, and this is my prayer for you too.

Blessings,



Eleanor Rivers  
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