



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

Week 1 May 30th: Papua New Guinea

- Axon Family (p.12) - We appreciate your prayers for the work of MAF and the people of PNG. We are praising God that we have been well, except for some minor skin problem, we have been able to find a way even with domestic travel restrictions to carry out more airstrip surveys and Richie's work with the Flight Operations Manager has been going well. Please pray for the continued process of surveying and reopening airstrips to go safely. For PNG health and government departments as they manage the COVID-19 situation as it gets worse and for God's mercy to PNG. Please also pray for Pastors and church leaders to encourage people to ignore superstition and instead trust God. Pray that there would be good understanding of COVID-19. That people would see that faith and medicine are not in opposition to one another.
- Higlett Family (p.12) - Please pray for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Mt Hagen and other places in Papua New Guinea shortly. Please pray that God would continue to protect our staff and passengers from COVID that we will be His Hand of Grace to the isolated communities we serve.

Week 2 June 6th: Timor-Leste

- Thank God that two staff rental houses have been secured in Dili, Timor-Leste. Pray that the new families settle in and that all staff are sustained during lockdown restrictions and schooling challenges.
- Simmonds Family (p.4) - We give thanks that despite the recent flooding and rising level of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, we are still able to provide essential travel to the remote communities. Please pray for the Timor-Leste team as we train new pilots and staff as they face these difficulties personally and in support of the wider population.

Week 3 June 13th: Arnhem Land

- Simmonds Family (p.4) - We give thanks for the drier weather for our pilots, however we continue to pray for safety as it has been a tough wet season and there is much work needed on airstrips which have degenerated a lot during the recent rains. We give thanks that our apprentice engineers passed their exams. We continue to pray for good health for the whole MAF team, in particular the Prentice family who have been badly affected. Please pray for Mark who as the Quality and Safety Manager for all the Australian registered aircraft, has a significant work load as staff members who recently left Timor-Leste and Arnhem Land have not yet been replaced.
- Melissa Barclay (p.3) - Give praise for new staff on board here in the Arnhem Land program, for faithful sponsors and prayer partners, for job satisfaction and a growing understanding of opportunities to serve for myself, and for a sense of peace and purpose. Please pray for security issues and community fighting, for the right people for the right MAF jobs, for team members' and families' health (including mine) as well as for a continuing growth of unity and purpose in local churches.
- Praise God that there are a few key partnerships being formed for the Arnhem Land program. Pray that God will breathe into these partnerships.

Week 4 June 20th: Bangladesh

- Praise God that our flights have been able to resume in Bangladesh after a time where flights were suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Give thanks that over half our national staff have been able to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Please pray for the continued good health of all our staff and their families and that we will be able to recruit the right people for several local vacancies.

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A Little Note

I was recently talking to my brother and sister-in-law who live in Seattle, USA along with their two sons, aged 14 and 12. The boys, my nephews, haven't been to school since March 2020, instead have been online learning this whole time. They will not commence back at school - all going well - until the new academic year which begins in September 2021.

Similarly, my little 10 year old nephew in Indonesia has also not been at school since March 2020, staying at home for online schooling, while his mother (a single parent and highly successful doctor) juggles her only son's academic progress, with a demanding work schedule, caring for my elderly mother in law, as well as her own health challenges.

While continuously praying for my family overseas, as well the rest of the world, my heart can hardly contain the overwhelming feeling of gratefulness to God that I have every day for the COVID-19 situation in Australia and the freedoms and normality we have experienced (bar the occasional snap lockdown) for many months now.

I have learnt - and am teaching my children this as well - to seize any opportunity that may come our way. I have learnt that a response such as "I'll go and watch my son compete in the athletics carnival next year" or "I can't be bothered driving her to that three day drama camp one hour away, let's just do it next year" is no longer wise.

In fact the Bible teaches us, *"Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."* - Ephesians 5:15-16.

That is the truth right there!

Join with me this June as I focus on making the most of every opportunity that presents itself to me. From the practical opportunities for my children's development and my own work and ministry roles, to the opportunities to meet up with someone in person, give an encouraging word, invite someone to hear the message of the Gospel, or simply take time to step back, look around and appreciate His Amazing Grace upon our lives. Thank you Jesus.

Blessings,



Eleanor Rivers
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