



## September 2020 The Eadies

**Hello from Sentani, Papua!** This is our first newsletter from our new home, new job, new town, new school, new team, new people—lots of new! Change always carries a level of difficulty and upheaval. As you may have experienced in your own life, physically arriving in a new place and “settling” are two different things. But our transition to Papua has been smooth, more so than I think we expected. Maybe I can best describe it as God has been kind to us. In numerous ways, sometimes small and subtle (but no less meaningful), we’ve experienced God’s kindness and gentle care for our family. As I write this, I’m remembering how kindness is used in the Bible as a descriptor of the character of God, a quality of God’s Spirit. Kindness, and gentleness. These are not easy to fit with descriptors like all-powerful; all-knowing; Creator; Holy. It is a bit mind-blowing to think that the timeless Creator of heaven and earth would show *me* small acts of kindness—some that only I would be aware of—as an expression of His love for me. For me, this is amplified living in a place where there is so much need. But I thank God for this mysterious aspect of who He is. And as He is, so are we called to be:

**“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...”** (Colossians 3:12)

This update is not about me in the hangar (I promise more on that another time!) but rather when I snuck out front and joined a MAF flight. Pictured above is sunrise at the MAF Sentani flight line! Okay, I had to sneak in early too. MAF flights always leave at first light in Papua, as by the early afternoon, the weather is already building up, often creating unsafe flight conditions. Interestingly enough, we flew in Kodiak PK-MEE (the aircraft pictured above on the left). This was a Kalimantan Kodiak originally on floats. Right now, a cargo pod is on the way from the US that will be installed onto this aircraft. Although it was tough to see this aircraft removed from operations in Palangka Raya, it is very neat to have a part in seeing it utilized here in Papua.



Full of cargo! (picture above) The day before our flight, our MAF loading crew filled our plane with needed supplies for a village named Kiwi. We also brought along some equipment to complete an airstrip risk assessment (ARA), which is an inspection of the airstrip to ensure it is still safe and fit to use. In Papua, we have about **120 active airstrips** we fly into, and we strive to complete assessments on all of our airstrips at regular intervals. Airstrip maintenance is a major factor in safe air operations in remote areas like this.

When thinking about what stories to share in this newsletter, I almost don’t know where to start... Too much to choose from! We’ll go with what I did for a morning last week...

Our flight to Kiwi was about 50 minutes one-way from Sentani. Minutes before landing, we passed along this ridge (right) that is about 9000 ft in elevation (about the summit of Begbie for you Revelstokians). Although treed and lacking glaciers, the mountains here are rugged, steep, and get much higher than this. They also can create micro weather phenomenon, and our Kiwi airstrip is in a valley known for freak high winds. Unloading cargo at the top of the airstrip at approx. 4900ft (below). This airstrip averages about a 14% incline, making the landing and take off quite an experience. Hard to see, but there are people lined up all along the top of the strip to watch the happenings... When a plane lands, it is the most exciting event of the day!



(Left) Posing for a pic at the bottom of the airstrip! It's times like this that I wish we could have stayed a few days and just hang out with these people; hear their stories and experience their way of life. An amazing story behind this village is that just a few years ago, a missionary couple finally left after 40 plus years in this one valley. While unloading the aircraft, one man explained to me he is involved in helping complete the full Bible translation into the local dialect, completed just this past July! It is a strange but beautiful thing to serve people you do not know and rarely get to visit. Hebrews 11 says that faith is being confident in what you hope for, having an assurance what you don't see. There is an element of trust to serving Christ where He has called you; an assurance that He knows what He is doing and all the moving parts are small pieces under His careful control; a kind of grand orchestra, each instrument representing another facet and characteristic of our awesome God. Thank you for the important part you play in what He is doing here in Papua, we're honoured to be doing this with you!



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