

Greetings dear friends,

April 2017

One curious thing about being missionaries is that much of what we do is often just plain hard work, and if we are not careful we can miss seeing how, where, and through whom God is working, right? Yet, He does work. Let me tell you about a really neat way that the Lord's Light shined brightly into two distinct cultures.



In Papua, Indonesia, 50 miles of rugged mountains separate the Moi people from the Wano people. But, it's not just geography that separates peoples like this—language, culture, and belief systems that make trusting outsiders difficult are what really separate. Through the work of missionaries living and working with the Moi and the Wano, the Gospel took root in the hearts of each of these groups and an idea started forming that these two very different peoples could study the Word of God together. In order to save the 4-5 weeks of arduous travel by trail, MAF put together a plan to fly 29 Moi believers to the Wano believers' village.

Now then, it's exciting enough that these linguistically and culturally different believers wanted to come together to study the book of Ephesians, but the Lord was able to teach them far more than they could have ever imagined. You see, when the Moi folks arrived they were showered with gifts by the Wano believers. And not just gifts for the men who had come, but even gifts to take back to their wives—gifts freely given in love—just because of their brotherhood in Christ! The idea of a gift, without strings attached, was a totally new concept for the Moi people and seeing this fleshed out in such a dynamic way helped them understand God's Love freely given better.



But the Lord wasn't finished teaching life lessons yet though—He had something good in store for the Wano people too. Singing while working in their gardens is what the Wano folks do to help them concentrate on their labor as they tire, but they didn't sing in church. So, when they heard the Moi break into song during their Bible



meetings, the Wano were soon singing in church too. Another practice of the Moi that was new for the Wano was standing and sharing during meetings. What surprised the Moi was that the Wano shared how the Lord guided and protected them as they trekked through hostile territory on their way to share the Gospel in another village—“Don’t you know they may kill you” asked the Moi, to which the

Wano answered that they were willing to lay down their lives for Jesus. As the week went on they kept on talking, and learning much from each other.

Here in Nampa we are certainly enjoying springtime and MAF’s first standardization training class. The fellow I’ve been working with is Eri Alas, and he’s from Guatemala where he’s worked with AGAPE (MAF’s affiliate there) for quite some time. He will be taking over the flying duties there and we want to equip him as best we can. I’ve really enjoyed teaching him in Spanish (his English is limited). Eri’s training as an airplane mechanic has been ‘on the job’ so we’ve



talked lots of systems theory along with the hands on stuff like magneto and alternator overhauls, trim tab actuator repair, fuel systems and turbocharging adjustments and more fun stuff (it really is fun work).



Whether reaching isolated peoples in Papua, Guatemala, or Africa—MAF plays an important role in sharing the Love of Jesus. Thank you all so much for your partnership with us in our ministry with MAF. And remember, these stories are not just MAF stories, they are yours too.

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