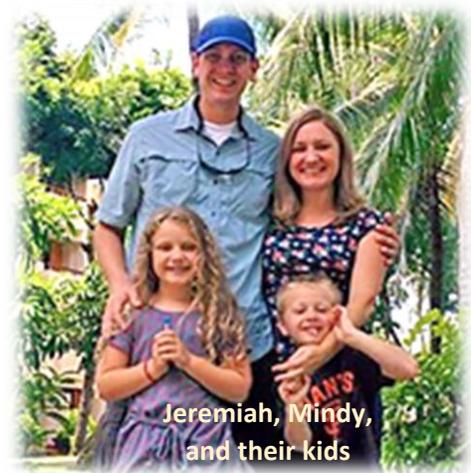


Greetings dear friends,

June 2017

Surprises and interesting turns of events can happen in anyone's life—but, they can sure look different for a missionary. Jeremiah Hartin is an MAF pilot/mechanic serving in the Indonesian province of Papua. I had the honor to evaluate and train him a few years ago, and he just recently enjoyed one of these wonderfully serendipitous happenings that cannot be explained as coincidence. I'll let Jeremiah describe it in his own words—and I'll bet you'll agree that you just never know what is around the next corner.

"What do you do when alone, miles outside of town in the jungle, an angry looking fellow appears with a machete moving towards you? I (Jeremiah) found myself in such a situation recently.



Jeremiah, Mindy,
and their kids

Since moving to Nabire a little over a year ago, one of my habits has been to take a weekly ride on my motorcycle. Most of these rides are out into the country where I enjoy exploring the scenes and seeing the faces of the people living outside of Nabire. I value the time to get away and reflect and pray. A few weeks ago I decided to ride along a river outside of town. It is really more of a large creek than a river, although it swells after a tropical storm rolls through. After riding several miles upstream, I came to a place where the canyon walls closed in and the river course narrowed and deepened. I stopped on a gravel bar and sat for a while and listened to the sound of the water flowing past. It was a deeply satisfying moment of peace in the Lord's presence. After a few minutes, a Papuan man appeared from the jungle. He was wearing no shirt and was carrying a machete. His face was hard and his brow was furrowed. I admit that I felt somewhat uneasy as this gruff-looking stranger approached me with a machete in his hand on the river bank miles out of town. Unsure and with some amount of fear, I stood up and greeted him in Indonesian. I had no idea what he would do or whether or not he would even understand me. (Many Papuans speak and understand only their tribal languages, and have not yet learned Indonesian). Yet I felt a sense of Christ with me and the peace that comes in His presence.



One of the planes Jeremiah flies

After hearing my greeting, a smile appeared on the man's face and I felt relief knowing that he understood me. He came to the gravel bar, and we sat down together. I learned that his name was Dirau and I estimated his age to be somewhere in his mid-thirties. It quickly became apparent that he just wanted to talk. A few minutes into our conversation, I asked him if he knew Jesus. He then told me a story of how several years ago, while working in a mountain town, he had a dream about Jesus and knew that he

needed to become a Christian. He explained that God had changed his heart. He also expressed sadness about many of his friends who had also claimed to be Christians but had not changed in their hearts. We went on to talk at length about following Christ, trusting in Him, and surrendering to His work within us. We spoke of encouraging our brothers and sisters in Christ to leave old ways behind and to obey Christ in faith. Before parting ways we prayed together and we both left encouraged.

I did not expect to meet anyone on the riverbank that day, but God knew that Dirau and I would meet. I am not certain that I will always be ready for the opportunities that come for evangelism and discipleship. What is certain is that the peace of God is greater than the sum of all my uncertainties.”

Here at MAF’s Nampa headquarters, we have our own serendipitous moments too. You know that I’m now an aviation maintenance instructor with MAF, evaluating and training the next generation of missionary aviators—but, there are other things that I’m asked to help with too. Things like revising and updating MAF’s internal technical maintenance documents, answering technical questions from our field mechanics, researching technical solutions for our unique operations, and developing continuing education exercises to help keep our overseas mechanics sharp. Well, I’ve been working on one of these projects for over two years now with enough frustration along the way that I was ready to throw in the towel. When out of the blue, a door of communication opened and now we might have a solution that could increase safety in operations as well as cutting costs! It is still way too early to get excited, but I am really encouraged and hopeful now that this will lead to safer and cheaper operations for MAF.

On the home front, Debbie and I still enjoy working with our Spanish speaking church, ‘El Crucero’. On Easter Sunday we had planned a big potluck and outreach time, and we didn’t really know who might show up. Well, the Lord surprised us by bringing some totally unexpected folks to the shindig. It really made all of the planning and work worthwhile too. We don’t know yet the outcomes of those seeds planted that day, but we trust the Holy Spirit to do His work in their hearts.



Whether we are in a far off land or here at home—we really don’t know what’s around the next corner, do we? But when we ask Jesus for eyes to see and ears to hear, He won’t let us down. Isn’t it wonderful to see the things He brings our way? Thank you so much for being a part of our lives and ministry with MAF. Your loving touch is truly felt by many isolated people groups, and here in Idaho too.

Love,

Steve + Debbie Robinson

Steve and Debbie Robinson

Work Phone: (208) 498-0606

srobinson@maf.org

MAF · P.O. Box 47 · Nampa, ID 83653-0047 · 208-498-0800-FLYSMAF (359-7623)

E-Mail: MAF-US@maf.org · www.maf.org