

# DISCOE



# FLYER

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..." Isaiah 40:31

Dear Family and Friends,

June 2009

There are times in each of our lives when something happens that knocks the wind out of us. Last week, that happened to our MAF Kalimantan staff when our dearly-loved office manager died suddenly and unexpectedly at age 51. We are all grieving as the reality of his home going sets in.

Simeon Tuwi was born and grew up in the Krayan River area in East Kalimantan, which is one of the major areas we serve. When the time came for him to attend high school, he moved to Tarakan. Following his older brother's encouraging, he began working for MAF around 1977. His first job was cutting the ever-abundant grass. For 32 years he faithfully carried out his responsibilities, not only at his job, but also with his family and his church.

Because of his friendly manner, his trustworthiness and his dauntless courage facing new challenges in his duties with MAF, he was regularly promoted to new roles. He ended up managing the office, which included handling visas, customs, police letters, receiving flight requests, making the weekly flight schedule,



*Simeon Tuwi  
September 29, 1957 -  
June 14, 2009*



*We pilots and mechanics were honored to be pallbearers for taking Simeon's casket from his house, where the funeral service was held, to the awaiting hearse*

writing letters and proposals to government officials...and the list goes on endlessly. His cell phone rang nearly every 10 minutes, and he always answered with patience and kindness. He was the head of the Indonesian staff (karyawan) in Tarakan and was very much a fatherly figure to all of them. In essence, MAF East Kalimantan *was* Simeon Tuwi, and when his heart stopped beating, it felt like ours did too!

As difficult as this time has been, we are confident that Simeon is in the joyful presence of our Lord, free from the pain and sorrow of this world. We have begun picking up the pieces and continuing this ministry with MAF, which I believe is bringing help, healing, and hope to the people of Kalimantan.



***Yonatan Karel will be taking over as our Tarakan office manager***

Yonatan Karel is another friend and colleague who has worked for MAF for a number of years. Before Simeon's death, he had been training and mentoring Yonatan to take over as office manager when Simeon retired. Please pray for Yonatan as he takes on an enormous new load much sooner than expected.

Pray also for the rest of us as we re-adjust after our huge loss.

With a heavy heart,

p.s. On a lighter note...in May, one of the MAF Caravan instructor pilots from Papua came to our program to administer check rides to the three of us flying the Caravan. He also gave me training so that I am now an instructor pilot in this airplane. This involves being able to fly and teach while sitting in the right seat (the normal flying seat is the left seat). Thanks to those of you who prayed about this training. It came when I felt like I had not had enough experience in the new airplane, but as it turned out, the training went well and was a good experience. Now, I will be able to administer the check flights as well as check out pilots who are transitioning to this bigger and more complex aircraft.