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The FORNEY FLYER

Dave & Joy Forney
Britton, Hannah, Hudson, Tanner & Tyler

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30 Minutes by Air...



On May 14th, my good friend and fellow MAF pilot, Paul, and I embarked on an ambitious nine day, 65 mile journey that would take us through some of most remote and rugged jungles in all of Borneo. Many of the locals thought we were crazy!

...or 9 LONG Days!

Why would an MAF pilot trade 30 comfortable minutes in a trusty little red and white airplane for nine, wet, smelly, leach-sucking, painful and exhausting days hacking a trail through dense, jungle-covered, steep mountains? Well, why not? Just kidding. We had better reasons than that! After all, the trip was filled with many uncertainties, dangers, and variables beyond our control. In the middle of the journey we were literally three or four days, at best, from the closest help. There was no contact with the outside world, save for a small handheld radio we carried in the event that an MAF plane flew directly overhead. We and our guides were quite literally on our own, deep in the "heart of Borneo," probably in one of the most remote places on earth.



Yeah, when approaching your wife to mention the idea of taking a trip like this, my recommendation would be to have better reasons than just, "well it would be cool." In our case, we truly did have some great goals. First of all, what better way to experience the magnificence and splendor of God's awesome creation, than to quite literally emerge yourself in it, without the distractions of normal, busy life? Plus we love adventure, and this was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure opportunity!

Even more than that, we wanted to truly experience first hand why MAF's safe and reliable service is so critical here in East Kalimantan. I can assure you that after hearing the sound of an MAF airplane far overhead, and knowing that they would easily cover 120 miles in the next hour, while our tired, sweaty, dirty, infection riddled and seemingly rotting bodies would painfully cover at best two to five miles during the course of the entire day—well, that can just be depressing! But it really hammers in the need for MAF. After arriving at our destination, as we talked to the local village pastor he informed us that we had just hiked a very small portion of the exact trail that the original pioneering missionaries had traveled over 50 years ago. In fact, they were the last foreigners to have successfully completed this trek. Their entire journey took over two months from the coast to Data Dian!! Today we often fly that same route in about an hour and 20 minutes!

The final, and perhaps most important objective we had was to build quality relationships with folks interior. We were not disappointed. In addition to sharing in two church services and spending countless hours visiting with folks at the beginning and ending villages, we also had a ton of time to build friendships with our guides. There's nothing like sitting around an evening campfire, recounting shared experiences of the day's pain and suffering, while munching on boiled frogs and rice! Trips like this have given Paul and I the chance to delve deep into meaningful, often spiritual conversations with men whom we would otherwise have little chance to interact with on a busy flight day. These have been some of my favorite and perhaps most significant times here. Thanks for your role in allowing us to be a small part of the exciting work that God continues to do in the remote jungles of Borneo! To find out more about our trip, and see a bunch of pictures, check out my blog: www.theforneyflyer.blogspot.com.



Forney's Furlough

By the time you get this letter, we'll be preparing to return to the U.S. for our first six-month furlough. We're sad to leave our home, but excited to see our family and friends. We'd be thrilled if you could make it to one of our sharing events.

We're planning to leave Tarakan on June 16th. After several days of traveling, we'll arrive at MAF headquarters in Nampa, Idaho for a week of debriefing and other responsibilities. Then it's on to Oregon for a week and a half before driving across the country to Pennsylvania. From there we'll swing through the southern states and back up the west coast to Oregon, arriving in mid-September. Please pray for safety during our travels, and for a reliable vehicle. It'll be a blast to share with you about our ministry!

COMING SOON...

Iowa

Jul 15 – Pulaski Mennonite Ch (PM)

Pennsylvania

Jul 19 – Wharton Furnace Union Ch (AM)

Jul 26 – Calvary Bible Ch (AM)

Maryland

Jul 26 – Maugansville Bible Br. Ch. (PM)

Pennsylvania

Aug 2 – Otterbein United Br. Ch. (AM)

Aug 8 – Annville United Christian Ch. (PM)

Aug 9 – Zion United Methodist Ch. (AM)

Aug 9 – Lebanon Valley Bible Ch. (PM)

Aug 14 – Calv. Bible Ch. Open House (PM)

Tennessee

Aug 30 – TBA

Oregon

TBA – Multiple events in the fall and early winter at GSCC and others. Stay tuned.



Top left: I absolutely love flying these national village pastors to their mission field, a small village 30 minutes flight from their own. Their little congregations send them on a regular basis via MAF, into what they view as their little "10/40 window." Top right: Hannah with her friends. Middle row, left and right: Hudson's gentle and caring personality earn him quick friends among the village children when we go interior. Above center: on a recent trip interior, a village elder/leader, Pak Anyi, was so impressed with Britton's "strength and attitude, he threw a ceremony to "adopt" him as his son, giving him a new name, Lawai, and telling all of us that he hopes to have him marry his youngest daughter. Yikes! ☺ At right: Britton's biggest wish came true when I brought home a young, reticulated python. It's his favorite pet. Right now it eats baby chickens. Hopefully that'll be all!

BY GOD'S GRACE

An MAF "term" is usually 3 ½ years overseas, followed by a six month home assignment. Our first term included a year of language study, several months of fixing planes, nearly six months working at headquarters due to the twins birth, and then two years of doing the missionary pilot/mechanic thing here.

By God's grace, over the past two years, I've had the privilege of safely transporting more than 6,400 people and 420,000 lbs of cargo over countless miles of dense jungle.

Based on the rate that Paul and I traveled by foot and boat, the time I flew would have easily saved over 50 years worth of travel, much of which directly helped the national church! In addition I flew dozens of medevac patients to the hospital, most of whom would otherwise have had no help.

Join me in praising God for His faithfulness! We're humbled to be playing a small role in His work here at the literal "ends of the earth." It's been a wonderful first term, and we eagerly look forward to the next!

Flying high in HIS strength,
Dave & Joy Forney

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NOTES ON GIVING

All gifts can be sent to the MAF support address at left. General support gifts are tax-deductible, personal gifts are NOT. For personal gifts, please attach a note that says "Personal Gift." These gifts are used for special projects like helping Indonesians, traveling interior, etc. Thank You!

PERSONAL BLOGS

www.theforneyflyer.blogspot.com
www.sahmissionary.blogspot.com