



The aircraft pictured above (PK-MEE) started its MAF career in Palangkaraya Central Kalimantan. A couple years ago I had a hand in the decision to move it to Papua, not an easy decision to make! In hindsight we are beginning to see how God led in that decision, as it is now sorely needed here. God's ways are above and beyond our own ways. We recently installed the belly cargo POD, and this is its first operational week like this. My good friend John Boogaard took this photo for me at the village of Nongme (say quickly 5 times!).

Recently a friend of ours taught on a verse from the Bible that spoke volumes to me. It is written by the apostle Paul, the older grizzled, weathered veteran, to a younger Timothy. For the sake of Christ Paul had already gone through thick and thin: He's travelled the known Roman world, a survivor of shipwrecks and beatings, spoke before kings and rulers, done time in prison, the list is long. And maybe most amazingly, he was the instrument God used to proclaim Christ to the known Roman world; bringing the good news of Jesus Christ from a corner of Judea to the nations. How do I even know about Christ? It has to be traced back to the faith and obedience of the first Christians bringing knowledge of Jesus beyond borders!

This old, experienced Paul imprisoned in Rome awaiting probable execution wrote:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2nd Timothy 4:7)

What stands out to me is that he says it's a good fight. Paul's life had far more hardship than most of us can imagine. Normally we associate a fight or struggle as something to avoid, especially considering what Paul

fought through. But Paul exclaims that going through all he went through for the sake of Christ was good. This fight wasn't something to regret; and it wasn't something he wished he did differently in a moment of clarity, rather it was a race well run. Contrast this (and I certainly know what I'm talking about here) to pursuing something that ends up to be wasted effort, unfulfilling, a disappointing waste of time.

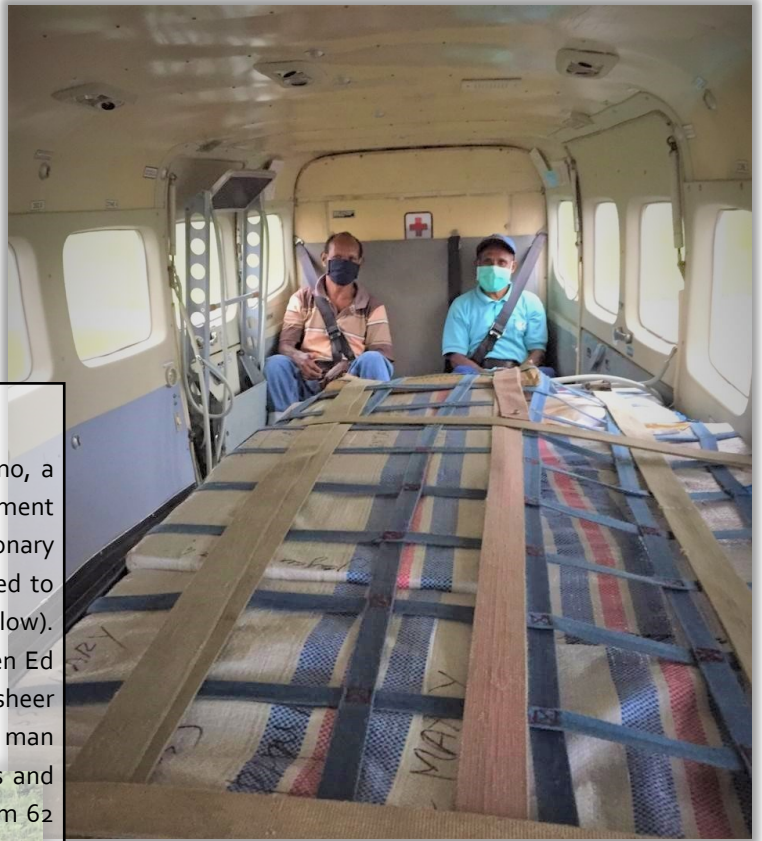
Scripture says the cause of Christ is worth it. In the book of Romans Paul wrote: **"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)**

There will come a time when God's glory will be revealed, this tired earth will be made new, and those who are under Christ will be redeemed, adopted as sons (verses 19 to 22)...This is pretty amazing! This inheritance is given to us as a free gift, for those who would receive it (Ephesians 2:8). To toil and fight on for the sake of Jesus is good, and worth every bit of effort, every hardship, every painful experience, and every unexpected trial you didn't ask for nor want. It's a good fight! (over)

With all the effort we go through to keep our aircraft airworthy and ready to serve, I love hearing stories of how they are being used. It allows me to build a better picture of the good fight God has us a part of here. Here are a couple quick examples of what went on this past month here, I hope you can be encouraged too!

A Plane Load of Bibles

These Bibles (pictured right) were destined for the village of Silimo, a place where after many, many years of work, only two Old Testament books remain to be translated! When they were delivered, a missionary named Buzz Maxey told the story of when his Dad (Ed) first arrived to Silimo in 1959, not far from where the aircraft sat (pictured below). Warriors were hidden in the bushes, laying in wait to kill him. When Ed arrived the warriors watched, but to their surprise, out of sheer exhaustion he lay down in a mud puddle! What do you do with a man laying in a mud puddle!? Eventually, they came out of the bushes and never attacked. As Buzz told this story, one of those warriors (from 62 years previous) was present, standing under the wing of the plane. God had protected Ed Maxey that day, and by God's providence the investment put in over the years has proven more than worthwhile.



Bibles for the Yali... Below is Pastor Minus standing by a load of Yali Bibles heading to the village of Dekai. Minus is in charge of planning the celebration in Dekai for the arrival of the Bibles. We ask that you to join us in praying that the Word of God would land on soft hearts and open ears. Thank you for the part you play in supporting MAF to make these flights happen. May God use His Word to grow His kingdom amongst the people of Papua!



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