

RACHEL'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2024



Bime



Andrew as a copilot

Family Christmas in Papua

Christmas this year will be unlike any I've experienced in Papua before. How so?! **My family gets to come visit me!** In fact, one of my "Christmas presents" even came early. Because my brother Andrew was already in Asia for another travel engagement, he was able to fly to Papua and spend a few days with me before traveling back to Colorado.

Some of the things we got to do included going to the beach, eating and fellowshiping with friends, shopping at the local mall, going to church, testing out my new car-driving skills, and simply hanging out. However, one of my favorite things we got to do together was ride on a fly-along with MAF to the village of Bime (sounds like bee-may). **Since I have had the privilege of going on fly-alongs before, this time I really enjoyed being able to witness Andrew experience MAF's ministry firsthand.** It's one thing to share with someone else about what MAF does, but it's a totally different thing to see it for yourself.



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If you would like to partner with me financially, please make checks payable to MAF and notate Rachel Holsten in the memo

MAF staff raise support for a pooled fund out of which MAF covers salary, housing, benefits, and staff-related work expenses. MAF exercises discretion over the use of staff support to carry out its mission and care for our staff.

Praises

Praise for being able to spend quality time with Andrew.

Praise for being able to celebrate Christmas with my parents.

Praise for taking the next steps as I seek to transition from short term to career staff with MAF.

Prayers

Pray for wisdom in knowing which ministries and activities to step into the second semester.

Pray for grace as I prepare to make a large transition from back to the States for furlough at the end of the school year.



More about Bime

As we were flying over dense jungle, meandering rivers, and rugged mountains, it didn't take long to reach a point where airstrips were a more common sight than roads. As we approached Bime's runway, I was mesmerized by the beautiful green-stepped gardens on the mountainsides surrounding the valley and the clear river flowing beside the village. **A sight that never gets old is seeing hundreds of villagers stop their daily lives to watch the plane land and unload supplies for their village.** Going to Bime was a gift. Not only was I able to watch Andrew take in the whole experience, but I was also reminded of the importance of organizations like MAF and others whose kids I have the privilege to teach.

*Merry Christmas!
Rachel*

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6