

# **SERVING TOGETHER**

Spring 2025

**DAVID & NATALIE HOLSTEN** 

### **ECUADOR TRIP**

In early March, I (David) made my first-ever visit to MAF's program in Shell, Ecuador. Right away I was struck by the beauty of the country, landing in the capital city of Quito at an elevation of 9,000 feet. We drove by snow-capped volcanoes and rushing rivers before arriving at Shell, which reminded me very much of the jungle environment where we lived in Kalimantan.

It was impactful for me to walk around Nate Saint's house in Shell, to be in the kitchen where the wives of five missionaries found out about their husbands' deaths in 1956. The experience was a sobering reminder of the very real sacrifice that can accompany the work of MAF.

The MAF program in Ecuador has such historical significance because of Nate Saint's legacy, but also represents in many ways the future of MAF's ministry, with more and more capable and highly trained national staff doing the work.



Looking over historical documents in the Nate Saint House in Shell. An MAF pilot, he was martyred along with four other missionaries when attempting to reach the Waorani tribe.



MAF Ecuador country director Jose Arce (left) and I had the chance to meet with one of MAF's partners, Oxiel Noja, a Cuban missionary doing discipleship ministry in jungle villages.

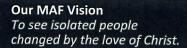




One of MAF Ecuador's 206s ready to head into jungle villages with supplies



Meeting the MAF Ecuador staff was a highlight.





## **NGALIK**

In the highlands of Papua, Indonesia, lives a people group who speak a language called Ngalik. After 61 years and two generations in translation, the complete Bible is now in the hands of Ngalik speakers. A Bible dedication was held in February, with some MAF staff joining Christian & Missionary Alliance missionaries Buzz and Myrna Maxey and their family for the celebration. Buzz's parents began the translation work in the 1960s and recruited two local men, Enos and Amos, to assist them.



Members of the Ngalik Bible translation team

MAF has supported this translation project since the early days, and during our time in Papua, I had the privilege of occasionally flying into the village where the work was taking place. Sometimes, as with the work of Bible translation, impact takes time, but it's worth it for these believers to have God's Word in their heart language!

#### MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

We are so grateful for our supporters who keep this ministry going through prayer and giving! Like many other ministries worldwide, MAF staff expenses have continued to rise.

Our monthly support target has increased by \$800, as further explained in the accompanying letter from MAF Board Chair Lacey Pittman. Please pray about joining our financial support team or increasing your giving to this ministry.

Thank you! The Holstens

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

- David has a busy speaking schedule this spring and summer as MAF is increasing engagement with churches around the country
- Our young adult children
- Peace and safety in unstable areas where MAF serves, including Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- · New staff to join MAF



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