

# THE BROWNS



## SERVING IN ARNHEM LAND

JULY 2023

### NEWS

Dear friends, we made it! We are writing this letter from our house in Arnhem Land, having now lived here for almost 3 months; what a journey it has been, and we're not just referring to the 8000 mile trip from the UK! Since Ben first learned about MAF as a 13 year old, to our time in the Army and then receiving the call from God to go and serve him in the field, we have been on an incredible journey and all of you are such a huge part of it. Thank you for the prayers, words of encouragement and support that have got us here so that we are physically, mentally and spiritually ready to serve.



**FAMILY** We have started to adjust to life in the programme. The days start very early, with Ben leaving the house at 7am. and not returning until after 5pm. Barny has begun pre-school and is making new friends. Reuben is loving all the wonderful creatures we find in our garden and Esther has been forming relationships in the community. Barny is currently nursing a broken collar bone, and is finding not being able to ride his bike very frustrating. Over the next few months we look forward to our removals arriving from the UK (so far it has taken almost 4 months) and getting to know our local community better.

**CHURCH** We are attending a mixed 'Balanda' (outsider in Yolngu Matha) and Yolngu church which has been great helping us integrate with the locals. It is a very vibrant with lots of singing in both English and Yolngu Matha. We look forward to becoming more involved with the church and community as we adapt to life in this amazing place.

Thank you so much for your continued support, love and prayers.

Yours in Christ

Ben, Esther, Barny and Reuben

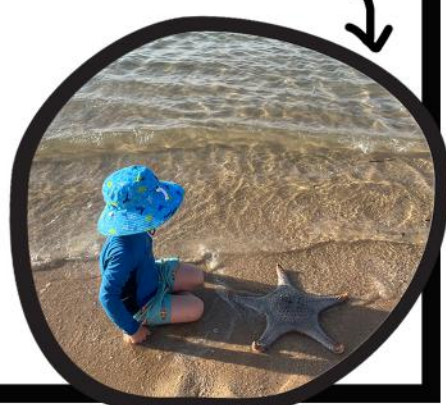


BEN OUTSIDE THE MAF TERMINAL WHERE HE WORKS

DECLARE HIS GLORY  
AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS  
MARVELOUS DEEDS AMONG  
ALL PEOPLES  
1 CHRONICLES 16:24

Partner with us through regular giving. Visit our MAF page to find out how.  
[www.maf-uk.org/browns](http://www.maf-uk.org/browns)

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS HUGE STARFISH!



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## PROGRAMME UPDATE

The programme is incredibly busy. Everyday there are up to 8 aircraft, flying to 50+ airstrips across Arnhem Land. We have hundreds of passengers flying every week, each one of them relies on the service MAF provides in this very remote part of the world.

MAF aircraft demonstrate the love of Jesus to the community in many ways. Whilst every person who travels with MAF has a story to tell, some definitely stand out and it is these stories I want to share over the next few prayer letters. My prayer is these bring to life the work in Arnhem Land and help you understand why the work of MAF is so important.



THE MAF TERMINAL AT ONE OF THE LARGER COMMUNITIES

## RESCUING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a big problem in Arnhem Land. Statistically Aboriginal women are 45 times more likely to experience domestic violence than white women and it is endemic in Yolngu communities. MAF partners with Miyalk Women's Shelter. Located in Nhulunbuy, it cares for survivors of domestic abuse. The remoteness of many communities can often leave women feeling trapped and this is where MAF comes in. When an urgent call comes in from the shelter, we drop everything to get an aircraft out to support the woman in need because quite often they are fearing for their lives. Using aircraft not only allows us to reach women faster, it also enables them to leave an abusive partner behind without fear of being caught.

Since the inception of the programme, 3 years ago, over 300 people have been rescued by MAF from abusive family members. That is over 300 people who's lives have been transformed by a MAF aircraft.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- The light of Jesus to shine into the lives of women suffering from domestic abuse.
- Barny and Reuben as they continue to transition into life in Arnhem Land.
- Wisdom, as we work to come alongside the Yolngu and understand their language, culture and way of life.



@BrownsWithMAF