



Everyone in MAF has a part to play...

Regina, Ralph and Brian come from the USA and work for MAF-Learning Technologies (MAF-LT) in Nampa, Idaho. Regina Manley and her husband Jim (ex Pilot) were originally based in Ecuador with MAF. Ralph Dawson was a MAF Pilot in Indonesia and Brian Ward has been with MAF-LT for the previous 7 years. Over the past year a relationship with the Technology Services team in Arnhem Land has been developing with the MAF-LT staff.



The MAF-LT team has 14 personnel with a vast range of technology skills and knowledge. The team is very keen to offer support to other ministries working with technology. On top of their technical background, Regina, Brian and Ralph have expertise in "Oral Strategies Workshops" which is providing ways to use oral methods in teaching the Bible.

"As we share the Bible stories with enthusiasm and realistic drama, people begin to identify with the Bible characters and their situations. The story becomes part of their world and experience. This has a greater impact than when the same words are simply read in isolation on the written page. If the storytelling is followed by discussion, participants can share their experiences and unique perspectives. The Holy Spirit works through the dynamism of the Bible!" (Explanation from MAF-LT)

When the team heard that the Aboriginal society was mainly an oral culture it was proposed that they come down to Arnhem Land and PNG to provide training to both MAF staff and Aboriginal Christian leaders as well as spend time encouraging and supporting the Technology Services team.



The proposal soon became a reality and during July the small team flew to Arnhem Land, spending 5 days with the MAF team. At Gove headquarters they managed to run an 8-hour course for the MAF staff and spent time with the Technology Services team brainstorming future ministry. A trip to Elcho Island in the MAF Airvan allowed a 2-hour training session to be conducted with the Elcho Island MAF staff and a few others.



One of the most special memories for the team though was when they conducted an evening workshop for the Yolŋu people in Yirrkala. On this cold but starry evening, the small group of Aboriginals sat around the fire listening and engaging with the MAF-LT team as they spoke about using different methods to communicate the gospel to their own people. From this particular night, Regina remembers Pastor Sam and his mother Eunice who offered a real kindness in reaching out and making her feel welcome. Nyäluŋ, one of the local Aboriginal ladies, commented: *"That was manymak (good), this new way of telling Bible stories is exciting!"*



As I (Peter Higham) watched the MAF-LT team engaging with the children at the Kids Club on Tuesday night, I was impressed by Brian's passion for the children and the way he taught them the story of Zacchaeus through drama and song. The children were fully engaged, enjoying themselves and learning about God at the same time.

Regina also appreciated the times spent with the MAF staff fellowshiping and talking about God's Word. This allowed her to see the heart that MAF staff in Arnhem Land have for the Aboriginal people.

MAF Arnhem Land is grateful for the willingness of the team to make the effort to come; not only to offer their support with technology, but also to train in areas that are so relevant to the Aboriginal people who MAF supports in Arnhem Land.



The following is a reflection of the trip by Ralph:

"I was excited for the opportunity to visit Arnhem Land. For 12 years, during the 1990's, I worked on the Island of New Guinea only 350 miles to the north. I had heard about the work in Arnhem Land but I really did not know what it was like. I really enjoyed getting to see firsthand the aviation operations and watching the pilots in action. I saw the same high standards and professionalism that MAF pilots demonstrate. MAF staff all around the world

have two outstanding qualities, 1) high standards of professionalism and 2) hearts to follow Jesus and serve others. This is how the Lord is able to open doors of opportunities to bring the good news to remote isolated peoples. I enjoyed getting to know the staff and the Bible Story Telling and Discussion gave us an opportunity to listen to the hearts of the staff and fellowship with them. Telling stories seems to fit well in that culture and it was a blessing to see it in action. I am excited for the work of MAF Arnhem Land and continue to pray for your work to bear much fruit."