



Paul & Cathy Middleton Update May 8th 2009

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Dear All,

I guess it is a long time since we wrote.

We have been very busy. Feb was especially busy on the flying side and we had all our aircraft out a number of times. March and April have also had their moments but quite a bit of my time has been spent in the office. We had a Civil Aviation Authority inspection which involved a huge amount of paperwork and I have spent a great deal of time writing and submitting a Maintenance Control Manual. Our Operations Manual also needs some revisions and that takes a while.

I was asked to do a medivac out of Moz last week and was getting ready to go when I remembered that I still hadn't got my new passport from the British High Commission in Pretoria. My 48 page jumbo one had filled up in five years but Easter and bundling by the High Commission meant that we hadn't got them back over a month after we applied for them. That alone has kept me from international flights for a month although of course other Mercy Air pilots have filled in where necessary. The passports have since arrived.

Next week I'm off to Moz to take a team out for the opening of a clinic. It will be a bit full circle as one of the first flights I did with Mercy Air was taking a work team out from Times Square Church NY to break the ground.

To help keep people informed I have started a 'Friends of Mercy Air' Face Book page. I have duplicated a bit of stuff with the MA web site and our blog, but thought it would cater for the generally younger crowd who use it almost constantly it seems. Feel free to join.

Cathy is in charge of hospitality at Mercy Air and that has kept her very busy. Our accommodation is almost constantly full with visiting missionaries and we have also had to upgrade some of our facilities/renew roofs etc. She continues to work at Africa School of Missions in the mobile and fixed clinics as well as teaching in the school of health. There always seems to be babies to deliver and people coming to our door wanting medical advice.

Some other Mercy Air staff are on furlough and have left us in charge of their teenage kids who are still at school in SA. After Easter they were returning in our/Matthews old car but wrote it off in a bad accident. They were admitted to hospital and we had to go down and get them the following day.

This month and June are quite booked up. I have to fly a YFC film a crew from Moz to Malawi and another trip will see Cathy and I go with a US church to Zim for four days and then on to Moz for a further 6 days. They will be joining a local church working with orphans.

We are well stuck into our local church here, hosting a house group once a week and also being part of the worship and sound team - a big time commitment.

So a lot of stuff is happening that we can't really sum up in a blog entry or even a general email update - until now!.

Other news is that I have started the process of applying for my own job. SA Home Affairs won't give me another volunteer's visa so I will need to get a work permit. I advertised my job in a national newspaper last week and have received a small mountain of CV's already. The whole work visa process involves another shed load of paperwork (and expense) and will be submitted in a month or so's time. Cathy will be also renewing her work visa but that will involve a slightly more believable amount of paperwork.

The elections here went as expected and the Rand's strengthening was more due to the fact that there was no violence on election day rather than who eventually got in.

Matthew's still in Durban trying to make it big in the photography world.

Cathy's dad had an aortic aneurism about a month ago. Cathy wanted to go home but didn't have her passport as it was also with the British High Commission getting renewed. Her dad became a member of only 4% of people who recover from such an ailment and so the need to return declined although she'd like to come back in the next few months anyway.

So, that should bring you up to date and explain why we have been quiet - it's not that we haven't been making any noise.

Love to hear from you.

P n' C

<http://pcm-mercyair.blogspot.com>

<http://ntatepaul.deviantart.com/gallery>