



Welcome!

Hello and welcome to this, our very first newsletter! We're so glad you're joining us on this adventure, and look forward to sharing more of our exploits as we learn all about life in Uganda

A First Taste of Our New Home

Lake Victoria blossomed beneath us like an expanse of ocean, dotted with fishing boats plying their trade on the vast waters. We peered through our small window and watched as Uganda unfolded before us, the land rising to meet us as the plane dropped toward Entebbe International Airport. From the very first glance it was clear to see how green and verdant this country was. We bounced to a stop and looked around at red earth and cloud-sprinkled sky and felt a comfortable warmth spread into the aircraft. We had arrived.

Our first week in Uganda was to be packed full of meetings, greetings and fleeting looks at this country we will call home come late November this year. We made our way through the immigration queue, feeling the contrast of Ugandan temperatures to those of the UK, and before we could rouse our flight befuddled brains to action we were in a car, driving towards Makindye, the district of Uganda that the MAF families located here call home. Our link family, the Swansons, a family well established in the country to whom we can ask all our silly questions, welcomed us warmly and fed us well, but we were ready for an early night.

The following day saw us experiencing the traffic of Kampala in all its glory, as we inched our way forward to explore some shops in the city. There are large supermarkets to explore here, and shops selling all manner of electrical items, homeware supplies and furniture. Imported goods are expensive however, and we found ourselves wandering the shelves taking pictures of prices for later comparison and calculation. It's not easy to work out how many pounds a price of 2,000,000 Ugandan Shillings comes to off the top of your head! The answer is around £430 if you're curious.

Dave enjoyed two days of hard work in the MAF hangar at Kajjansi as the week progressed, while Becky explored more of the sights and sounds of this great city, visiting a reputable doctor's surgery, additional shops and having a tour of the airfield and village which plays host to MAF in Uganda. There was much to see and much more to remember.

Thursday dawned with blue skies, a promise of excitement, and an unfortunately unwell Dave. He slept that morning while Becky took to the skies, flying in a Cessna 208 Caravan to reach an airstrip in the north of the country, on the border with South Sudan. The ground radiated heat as the small aircraft landed on the uphill strip, and a group of children gathered to gape at the plane and the strange white woman pointing a camera in their faces. They were so happy to see their smiles reflected on the small screen. Together with pilot Eivind, Becky walked the airstrip, checking for and demolishing termite mounds and pulling up weeds – the less glamorous part of piloting!

Before we knew it, our week was at an end. Our understanding of Uganda and the work of MAF in this beautiful country has greatly improved, and though there will be challenges in transitioning to life on the mission field, excitement is growing at the thought of joining the programme full time. We've never been more certain that this is where we should be, and while we could wish that would mean it would all be easy, we know that in those difficult moments we can count on the promises in God's word and rest assured in the knowledge we are not doing this alone.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE

You are as much a part of this adventure as we are - we can't do it without your prayer and backing, so thank you for walking with us on our journey.

Pray

- For wisdom as we get ready to rent our house
- For the practicalities of leaving the country, and all the jobs that entails
- That we could continue to build our support team, to allow us to leave this year
- Praise God for a great look-see visit to Uganda

Partner

If you would like to partner with us financially please visit our page on the MAF website: www.maf-uk.org/waterman

We are over 35% toward our target, but need the additional funding in place before we can leave for Uganda. Thank you so much to those who are already supporting us!

Participate

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First Impressions



From Dave

How can a country feel so busy, but yet nobody rushes to get anywhere! The streets are busy, the shops are busy and the work is busy, but everyone always takes their time in what they are doing and time to talk to people. The picture above shows the Avionics workshop where I will be working. It's a blessing to be given a great headstart with facilities and I am looking forward to getting stuck in and helping out in the hangar as well as learning new skills. The Uganda programme is a busy one, maintaining aircraft from Uganda as well as Chad, South Sudan and East DRC. There is plenty to be helping out with and that is not even thinking about extra-curricular activities or church activities yet.

The Rules of the Road

Driving in the UK has the occasional moment where you might wonder what a driver is doing and gesticulate angrily in their general direction. In Uganda, it seems more common to wonder what drivers are doing all of the time! A lack of lane markings, traffic lights and the sheer volume of traffic seems to drive out common sense much of the time. A chorus of beeping is the accompaniment to any journey.

And yet despite it all it's not as chaotic as you might think. Most of the beeping is to alert a nearby car to an imminent collision, and not just because you happen to be in the way as you might hear in London. Likewise, despite the many, many vehicles on the road, most will give way if you start to edge slowly forward and show that you intend to pull out. It will certainly take practice and it's a different style of driving to what we're used to, but we'll get there!

Something that might take longer to adjust to is the sight of boda boda motorcycle taxis that swarm in and out of traffic bearing passengers and all manner of burdens. A car bonnet floating atop the traffic turned out to be cargo transported in this way! The strangest thing we've seen on a boda may well become a regular feature of this newsletter!



From Becky

Noisy, busy, dusty and warm, but beautiful, green and alive. There are so many words I could use to describe my first impressions of Uganda. The people are friendly, the temperature is lovely (and the humidity not too bad!), and it is a truly beautiful country. Flying over the river Nile and seeing Uganda from the air showed how full of life this place is, and also how long it would take to cross it without MAF's services! It is a country of contrast, with some really poor areas and families living in one room houses, located beside luxury golf courses and hotels. It'll take a while to get used to the busyness of the roads, and learning you can't plan exactly when you will arrive at your destination!



We hope you've found this little update interesting and helpful. Please do stay in touch with us as we continue on our way to Uganda. If you would like to meet up with us to hear more about what we'll be doing with MAF then send us an email to hello@dbwaterman.com – we would love to get together with you.

Dave & Becky

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