

## Winter 2017 - Newsletter

### We Welcome You to Uganda!

Without you we wouldn't be here, and so we want to welcome YOU to Uganda! This is your adventure as much as it is ours, and we are so grateful that you are walking with us as we take our first uncertain steps into life here in Africa. To the right are all of our contact details if you'd like to follow us on social media, send us an email, or even write to us – we'd love to hear from you!

### First Steps

We stepped off the plane into Entebbe, Uganda, to be hit by a wave of heat. The temperature was definitely different to the 2-3 degrees we'd left behind in the UK. After not a lot of sleep and the shock of a different climate, we weren't in the best frame of mind to be told our bags hadn't made it from the first leg of our journey. We completed the required paperwork, prayed hard to see them again, and gratefully accepted borrowed clothes and toiletries for our first few days. It was an emotional start to our life in Uganda, and a humbling one, as we learnt to lean on our friends and colleagues here for the essential supplies needed for our first couple of days.

Things picked up from there, and we soon had a new washing machine, working internet (albeit not at the speed we're used to!), a topped up electricity supply and essential groceries. We speedily sorted out the required paperwork for being in the country (most of it anyway), and started the process to buy our noble steed for the next few years – a seventeen year old Toyota RAV4, freshly imported from Japan.

Though it will be another couple of months before the rest of our things arrive in their shipping container, we look forward to starting to make our beautiful little house a home. Our two-bedroom bungalow is found on a compound of ten houses, with residents made up of staff from a range of NGOs, and also some local Ugandans who look after the properties, and keep the gardens looking beautiful. With the right windows open there's a beautiful breeze flowing through the property to keep us cool.

Everything is very new and exciting, and there is a lot to take in. There have been tears and there has been laughter already, and there is so much to look forward to. As we learn the pace and procedures of life here, we continue to thank God for the promises he has spoken over our lives, most notably that he will never leave us nor forsake us. Though the learning can feel lonely, we know we are not alone.



### JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for continuing to keep us in your thoughts and prayers!

### Pray...

- For continued health and safety.
- That we could find a church family to settle into really quickly.
- For great relationships with everyone in the MAF team here.
- For our emotional wellbeing – there's a lot to get used to!

### Praise...

- We made it here safe and sound! And our luggage (a couple of days later).
- Our house here is beautiful and a great space for us to call home.
- For how quickly we've been able to get lots of practical things organised.

### Stay in Touch

MAF Uganda, PO Box 1,  
Kampala, Uganda

 [hello@dbwaterman.com](mailto:hello@dbwaterman.com)

 [www.dbwaterman.com](http://www.dbwaterman.com)

 @davebeckymaf

 @davebeckymaf

 /davebeckymaf

 Youtube

# Looking Forward



## For Dave

Eighteen years since the dream started, twelve years since I was last in Uganda with MAF (short term), fourteen months since we applied, five months since we started with MAF, and yet it's not quite real in my head. I am here, sat in a house in Uganda, fulfilling a dream of mine. I am sure at some point it will sink in and become a reality, but for now I am just smiling lots, enjoying the ride, and preparing to start work in the MAF hangar as an avionics engineer.

## Uganda Life

As I sit and type these words I hear the songs of unfamiliar birds and the chirp of unfamiliar insects. A local monkey has appeared several times in a tree in our front garden, and I am sure one particular type of bird laughs more than it does sing. There is near constant noise here. A man shouts through a sound system somewhere in the distance, the words, in Luganda, making no sense to me. As evening dawns, the crickets start shouting their presence, and a nearby outdoor pub pumps out its music at full volume, as the local people dance and laugh and sing. Life is all around us.



It is evident in the many flowers and giant trees, and fresh fruit that tantalises our taste buds more than any fruit we've tasted before. It is evident in this busy city, where cars and motorbikes (boda bodas) and people form a steady stream of slow moving humanity. It is evident everywhere you look in this metropolis, and in the country at large, and we look forward to exploring more of it.

The red soil forms a fine film on our floors, and I am sure we'll soon get used to having dirty feet. Jesus' example of washing the feet of his disciples suddenly seems more applicable! Shopping is a combination of market stalls offering fresh fruits and vegetables, and supermarkets with everything from Heinz baked beans to the more traditional local staple of maize. There's always a question as to whether the freezers have been running consistently enough to ensure the safety of the meat housed within. Familiar foods are expensive, but it's nice to know there are options

for the odd treat or two.

Kampala itself is a huge place, and there is so much of it we have yet to see. We look forward to our explorations of this bustling place, but also of the country at large, where we are told there is an incredible amount of beauty to take in.

Thank you again, for continuing to join us on this adventure.

*Dave & Becky*



## For Becky

It is staggering to see how many opportunities there are to join in with here in Uganda. From the refugee camps in the north, to the slums in the city, to the chance to teach people more about the Bible; there are so many options to explore. I will be taking my time to consider where I can best help here, and will give myself time to adjust to a new culture and climate and life. But I am so looking forward to getting stuck in, and may take the chance to do some writing in the meantime!



## Can You PEG Us?

**Pray** – See the front of the newsletter for some of our prayer and praise points.

**Encourage** – Knowing you're standing with us helps us to keep going, so please do stay in touch.

**Give** – It costs MAF a lot for us to be here, so if you can help to support us financially head over to [www.maf-uk.org/waterman](http://www.maf-uk.org/waterman).

Thank you!

**MAF UK**

Castle Hill Avenue  
Folkstone, CT20 2TQ

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[staffsupport@maf-uk.org](mailto:staffsupport@maf-uk.org)

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