

Summer 2018 - Newsletter

A Speedy Six Months

Can you believe it's more than six months since we left the UK for Uganda? We wondered if time would seem to move more slowly here, as the pace of life is definitely slower. Dave's had to learn to walk at African speed, rather than marching up the hill to be picked up by the bus for work in the mornings! Though there's less pressure to get so much stuff done, with much more emphasis placed on building relationships than achieving goals, the tasks that do need doing all take a bit longer, and so it all evens out and time flies by as quickly as it ever has!

One task which took a while was getting Dave's Ugandan maintenance license sorted out. He's qualified to sign out aircraft as airworthy in Europe, but we needed the right piece of paper to allow him to do it here. We started the application as soon as we arrived, and it's just been issued now, after many trips to Entebbe airport to see the Ugandan Civil Aviation Authority, and several exams of course. There are still some categories to add to it for him to be able to sign out everything, but it's amazing progress.



As time rattles by we prepare to say our first missionary goodbyes. One MAF family is heading home to Switzerland, and another who live on our compound will be leaving soon to make their way to Chad. The nature of the work means a lot of hellos and goodbyes which can be a challenge, but we are really enjoying making friends from all different walks of life, both inside and outside of MAF. For our birthdays at the start of June we were able to have a BBQ celebration with people from all around the world.

We continue to be humbled when we hear the stories of how the work of MAF is impacting this country, and the nations around us. The partner organisations we fly are doing life-changing work in Uganda, with many of our flights providing access to refugee camps where hundreds of thousands of people have arrived after fleeing the violence in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A few weeks ago, we heard the story of a 68-year-old man, who fled with 15 other people from his village in a small wooden boat, taking turns to row their way from Bunia in the DRC, to Sebagoro in Uganda. It took them three days, exposed to both the heat and cold with little food. The former village church leader had no choice but to run for his life. MAF flights are reaching refugees like this man, bringing aid and vital support, such as trauma counselling, medical care and vaccinations, and even micro-financing groups helping families to become self-sufficient as they start new lives in Uganda.



It is a privilege to be a part of such a great work, helping to keep MAF's planes in the air.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

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

Pray...

- For health and protection against colds and stomach bugs and other nasty things.
- For our emotional and spiritual wellbeing; at six months in the honeymoon period is ending and we are adjusting to the permanence of life here.
- For peace and stability in Uganda after a few unsettling news stories.

Praise...

- Dave's Ugandan maintenance license has arrived!
- The prolapsed disc in Dave's back is much better. He's out of pain and able to do most tasks at work again.

Stay in Touch

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A Word from the Watermans



Dave - Back in the Swing of Things

In May, while packing for a trip to France for training and then to Liberia to work on our plane there, I suddenly experienced incredible pain in my back. I was unable to walk without aid or do much of anything for two weeks. Thank you so much to everyone for your prayers. Praise God, I am now almost completely free from pain, and able to continue working to help keep the MAF planes in the air. The hangar staff have been great, ensuring I don't lift anything too heavy to keep me from further harm, but it is amazing to be back at work, and not restricted to doing paperwork!

Finding Rest – MAF's Day of Prayer

On the 16th of May, 2018, MAF programme's around the world gathered together to spend some time praying. It was a day to pray for the work of MAF, as well as the opportunity to spend some time soaking in God's presence. The theme for the day was 'Finding Rest,' a great topic given the busyness of life.

In Uganda we gathered in the hangar with another organisation, Engineering Ministries International (EMI), who work in the same office as MAF at Kajjansi. The day was split into three, with each section having a time of worship, a word which Becky delivered, and some sort of team building game or a chance to get to know our colleagues better. And, of course, some great food!



Becky - Preaching and Prepping

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers in this getting-used-to-life phase here in Uganda. I have really enjoying having a couple of opportunities to preach over the last month and look forward to doing more of that as we continue to get settled here. I will be helping to cover some internal MAF communications work while some staff are visiting their home countries over the summer and I look forward to seeking out additional opportunities to use my gifts in this beautiful country. I have also set myself a target to get the first draft of my next book written by the end of this year!



There was a sense of irony during the day. A propeller had received a huge stone chip the day before, and the plane was needed the next day to make an urgent trip up to South Sudan. Several engineers worked hard all day building and replacing propellers, with half an ear open to hear about the importance of rest! What an amazing team we have here, so committed to keeping the planes in the air for their amazing work to continue.

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.

Thank you!

Dave & Becky

Thank you for reading our update, and for your ongoing prayers, thoughts and supports. We really wouldn't be able to be here without you.

MAF UK

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