



Summer 2019 - Newsletter

Homecoming

We sit writing this update from our home in Uganda. Birds are calling, and the distant hum of Kampala reaches our ears, though it is somewhat muffled today as it's a national holiday and many people are enjoying a restful day. At the time of writing we have been back for less than two weeks after a busy time in the UK on our first home assignment. It was wonderful having the chance to catch up with so many amazing people, but we are glad to be back to our home, and glad to be back to doing the work that we love.



Our eight weeks in the UK were jam-packed with presentations (14 in total) and travel all across the south of the UK (2,200 miles on the clock of our rental car). We managed to squeeze in a bit of family time as well, and met our niece for the first time. It was simultaneously very familiar, seeing the sights we'd known since we were children, and very different. A couple of frosty mornings felt colder than we remembered them being, and supermarkets were an overwhelming experience, with all of the food you could possibly want right at hand.

We enjoyed a couple of months of very peaceful driving, with everyone obeying the rules of the road, and no need to navigate through hundreds of bodaboda motorbikes to get anywhere. We really enjoyed visits to the ocean. Though Lake Victoria is big enough to seem like a vast sea, there's nothing quite like the smell of the salty water in the air, and the feeling of the freezing Atlantic Ocean tickling your toes.

It is a strange sensation, feeling that both the UK and Uganda are our homes. There are things we love about both places, and things that can seem frustrating in both as well. There are people we love dearly in both countries, who we will always miss when we are a world away from them. That's not a sad thing though, but rather something we feel incredibly fortunate to have. How blessed we are, to feel so cared for and loved, wherever in the world we may be.

It is back to reality now, with early alarm clocks, assuming we haven't already been woken by the nearby mosque or the Hadada Ibis, with its very obnoxious wake up call. It's back to dealing with traffic, and working hard on aircraft and preparing Bible study materials and sermons. It's back to being where we belong, and we wouldn't have it any other way.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

Pray...

- For Dave's busy schedule in the next few weeks – leading training sessions for chief engineers and travelling to Liberia.
- For Becky as she starts teaching a new topic in the MAF lunch time Bible study group.
- For good health for us both as we adjust back to Uganda life.

Praise...

- For an amazing time back in the UK catching up with friends, family and our wonderful supporters.
- For safe travel all around the UK, and getting back to Uganda.
- That our home in Uganda was well looked after while we were away.

Stay in Touch

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A Busy 2019



Flying 5X-BIL – Dave

With us finishing the upgrade to BIL the day before leaving for the UK I never really got to see him in action.

I loved taking the opportunity to fly with Dave Forney up to the North of Uganda, where we collected a team from the refugee camps and flew over Murchison Falls National Park. I'm happy to say it's all working perfectly.



Uganda Life – Becky

I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and writing the materials for my next Bible study. In the meantime, I've been getting reacquainted with life in Uganda, including the amazing rainstorms we get in the rainy season! We were unable to reach our church on the first Sunday back, with the roads overflowing with water!

“We’ve saved all the electronic faults up for you!”

Our Chief Engineer here in Uganda is a dry witted Dutchman and when I walked back in he looked me dead in the eye, welcomed me back and said he'd been storing up a pile of work for me to fix. He proceeded to watch my face fall as my mind raced how to get on top of the emails, start my new role as Africa Regional Avionics Manager and fix all these problems. He then laughed and reminded me about his Dutch sense of humour. I have missed this place!

It was a busy first week back with catching up on where things are, but also very nearly having to travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Madagascar. Fortunately as I write this, the engineers in those programs have managed to fix the faults with some remote assistance, but it is a taste of what could be to come with my new job.

We are now entering Home Assignment season, where the primary engineers from many programs head home for a few weeks and there is an increase in requests for assistance. I always feel humble that I get to work with such a skilled team of people from so many different countries, serving with one purpose in mind.



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 a lot for us to be here, so if you can help to support us financially head over to www.maf-uk.org/waterman.

My next few weeks and months are going to be busy as I prepare for the Senior Engineers Technical Meeting in Uganda (17th – 21st of June) where I am delivering avionics training. Then I fly to Liberia with the Chief Engineer from that program on the 23rd of June to assist with some annual avionics checks and other maintenance items on the aircraft based there. I am also starting to plan a trip to Australia to meet with the aviation department and my counterpart covering the Asia region, as we begin to think about a global avionics strategy and what we do next. It all sounds tiring, but a whole heap of exciting!

We want to thank you again for standing with us as we serve with MAF in Uganda. Without your financial contributions, thoughts and prayers we wouldn't be able to do what we do, so thank you again!

Becky & Dave