

## Winter 2019 - Newsletter

### Travelling, Training & Talking in Australia

November this year saw Dave take to the skies once again, for the four-flight journey to Australia where half of MAF's head office is based. Here's a glimpse of what he got up to:

#### Travelling

I have learnt that Australia is a really long way away from Uganda! On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November I started my journey and two days later, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, I arrived at Cairns airport in Queensland, Australia. The climate in Cairns is remarkably similar to Uganda. The Australians drive a lot more sensibly and it rains a whole lot less, but it felt a lot like home. The scenery around the area is beautiful, but you do have to keep an eye and ear out for snakes, spiders and salties, also known as salt-water crocodiles, which have a bit of a temper.



#### Training

There were a couple of reasons for heading all the way over to the other side of the world. The first being to receive some training. In the world of aviation, even if you think you know everything, there is always something else to learn. There is a requirement within MAF, and also with the regulators and the manufacturers, to undertake annual recurrence training to ensure that we keep up to date with any

changes in procedures, products and policies. All of this is to keep us as knowledgeable as possible to keep the aircraft in the best possible condition. During my time in Australia I attended two conferences, one for the engines we use and one for the avionics systems. I also took part in the engineering meetings with the Chief Engineers in our Asia-Pacific programmes, where I was able to deliver some training on our avionics systems.

#### Talking

The second reason for visiting Australia relates to my new role as Africa Regional Avionics Manager. Given the importance of electrical systems in modern aircraft, MAF has introduced a new structure which implements a global avionics department to allow us to effectively maintain all the systems in all of our aircraft. This trip was to allow time to meet my new boss and my counterpart in Australia. We had some time to work out how this fledgling department will work, and we had a great time getting to know each other and putting in place some plans for the immediate and distant future. All in all, a long trip, but worthwhile.



### JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

#### Pray...

- For Dave's next travel to Liberia in the week before Christmas, and additional trips in Africa next year.
- For a relaxing Christmas break for both of us before the busyness of the next year.
- For Becky's Bible teaching ministry, including two speaking engagements booked in for early 2020.

#### Praise...

- For Dave's safe journey to and from Australia.
- For Becky completing the first draft of her next novel – she will be approaching publishers in the new year.
- For the good health and energy we've enjoyed throughout the year.

### Stay in Touch

Write: MAF Uganda, PO Box 1,  
Kampala, Uganda

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 Youtube

# Christmas is Coming

Not only are we celebrating the Christmas season this December, but also two years since we set foot on Ugandan soil with all our possessions packed in four suitcases (and a few other bits on the way in a shipping container). We arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2017. It was an unusual Christmas for us; our first in the hot and humid weather of Uganda and the first for a long time with no family nearby.



Fast forward two years and we find ourselves ready to enjoy our third Ugandan Christmas. Some of the bigger shops have had decorations out and for sale since November, but Christmas is definitely less obvious here than in the UK. You don't see houses lit up with electricity-draining displays, and there aren't events like the lantern parades and switching on of the lights typically found in the towns and cities of England. Carol concerts tend to be expat affairs, aside from the large events some of the bigger churches in Kampala put on which become celebrations for all to enjoy.

Christmas for Ugandans is family-focussed. The city of Kampala will empty, as its residents return to the villages they grew up in, to spend Christmas day feasting and enjoying time with relatives they may not see at any other time through the year. Distant cousins are welcomed into the family home with open arms, and great vats of the local cuisine are prepared, such as matooke (a sort of savoury banana), posho (a maize dish), cassava (a root vegetable) and more. It is a stark reminder of how much we miss our own families during the Christmas season, and yet knowing we are here, playing a small part in the incredible work of MAF within Uganda, and the wider continent, makes it all worthwhile.

We wish you, our wonderful supporters, friends and family, a wonderful Christmas time this year.

## Why We Do What We Do

Imagine being unable to walk in a country with no ramps, no smooth pavements, no free medical care and very little compassion for disabilities. It's difficult to comprehend what life would be like, having to crawl through the dirt simply to find food to keep you going for another day. Sadly that is the reality for many in Uganda today. It is hard enough for those with disabilities in the city, but in the more rural areas in the north of the country, and in the refugee camps hosting hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the violence in South Sudan and other countries, the situation becomes even more desperate.



It is amazing seeing MAF step in to meet this need, by flying wheelchairs to the north of the country to provide children and adults alike with the freedom of movement a wheelchair can provide. Though our roles are behind the scenes,

hearing the stories of lives absolutely turned around in this way is incredible. One man who benefited from a wheelchair was able to complete medical training and an internship in a hospital, and is now volunteering at a clinic within the refugee settlements where he can put his skills to use to help his own people.



Hearing stories like this helps us remember the life-changing impact MAF is having in Uganda and the wider world. Without your thoughts, prayers and financial giving, we wouldn't be here to play our part in this great work.

Thank you so much for standing with us, enabling us to be here in Uganda and working with MAF. We appreciate your support more than we can ever say.

### Can You Join the Adventure?

It's only through the financial contributions of many generous individuals that we are able to be here in Uganda working with MAF, and it means so much to us to work in partnership with you in this way. We are still slightly below 100% of the regular support target we need to raise to continue our work here. If you are able to make a monthly or one-off donation, please visit our page on the MAF website: [www.maf-uk.org/waterman](http://www.maf-uk.org/waterman)

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