

## Winter, 2021 - Newsletter

## Home Sweet Home!

On the 9th of August, 2021, we waved farewell to Uganda. Three months to the day, on the 9th of November, the wheels of our plane touched the tarmac in Liberia and we had arrived, here in our new home country. In what was an incredible answer to prayer, the boxes we had shipped from Uganda arrived in our new house on the very same day as us!



Setting up a kitchen in Liberian humidity

We've encountered so much already, from crazy traffic, to sudden, sharp storms, to insane levels of rust and corrosion, to many creepy crawlies like cockroaches, and even scorpions! One made its way into the house of a next door neighbour. We've been checking where we put our feet ever since!

The compound we live on is beautiful, and it's so lovely to have a beach to walk on just minutes from our front door. It's a wonderful way to relax after a busy and hot day.

Though it's strange to be in the unusual again after the familiarity of the UK, we are so glad to be here. We have no words to express our thanks for all of the support and love we received on home shores—it blew us away. As we learn to navigate the complexities of a new culture, we feel buoyed up by your thoughts and prayers, and it's only your generosity that keeps us here at all.



A new house, full of boxes

It's been a busy few weeks, getting unpacked and settled, and making this new house feel like a home. Amidst the sweatiness of long hot Liberian days, we battled with frequent power and water outages in our first couple of weeks. We took to the streets to explore some of the local shops to discover what food we could buy, and what other supplies we could pick up for the house. Stock seems to vary week by week, but we've found plenty of food to keep us going.



Taking the wheel... On the left hand side!



Dealing with traffic in Monrovia—how many lanes?

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

## PRAY...

- For energy, physically and emotionally, as we adjust to the climate and a completely different culture.
- That we could quickly find a great church to join.
- For wisdom to know what to get involved in, and what to give to.

## PRAISE...

- For the safe delivery of our boxes from Uganda—on the same day we arrived!
- For the great time we had in the UK, and the amazing generosity of so many as they looked after us.
- For new opportunities Liberia will bring, and knowing God is with us in it all.

## STAY IN TOUCH



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## Life in Liberia—Early Experiences



## DIRTY FINGERNAILS

After three months in the UK, and lots of project planning and the like before that, it's great to be back to doing some physical work on MAF's planes again. I was surprised (and strangely pleased) to come home to find my fingernails caked in dirt and oil. I'm already enjoying the work here in Liberia—it's amazing to be out on the hangar floor one day doing an inspection or fixing a fault, and the next day be working in the office and planning for the future of the West Africa Maintenance Base. I think every day is going to be different here, and that's what I love about it! *Dave*



## LOST IN TRANSLATION

Working in multiple currencies (US dollars and Liberian dollars) is complicated enough. Throw in a bit of Liberian English, and shopping becomes a complicated endeavour! There are a couple of ladies who come around to our house most days to ask if we would like any bananas or other fruits and vegetables. During one of my first purchases I accidentally wound up buying around 30 bananas! There was a massive pile left, even after baking banana bread and banana oatmeal cookies! It's definitely going to take some time to adjust to shopping here. *Becky*

## Mission Aviation Fellowship in Liberia

MAF has two planes serving the country of Liberia now, and a third plane is heading West Africa's way next year, to start work in Guinea. Life will be busy for Dave, as he gets to grips with work in the hangar and office, while continuing to support the fleet of planes in Africa with any avionics issues. It's a different way of working, establishing this place as a base to support not only Liberia, but any work both now and in the future within the region of West Africa. It's amazing to think about the impact those planes will have in countries where the roads are completely impassable at certain times of the year (and treacherous the rest of the time!)



From tyres to vaccines, patient transports of people too sick to reach a hospital by road, to sacks of onions and other supplies for a missionary family working in an extremely remote area—our planes here are always packed to the brim with essential supplies and personnel, making a massive difference in this country.



## Join us on the Journey

We love hearing from you, and it's so amazing to know you're thinking of us and holding us in your prayers. Please do get in touch any time! If you'd like to join our regular support team to keep us here working with MAF in Liberia, please visit our page on the MAF website:

**[www.maf-uk.org/waterman](http://www.maf-uk.org/waterman)**

Thank you for walking with us on this amazing adventure. We hope this gives you a bit of an insight into our early days of living in Liberia, and we wish you a wonderful Christmas, and a blessed 2022!

Rene & Becky

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