

Spring, 2022 - Newsletter

Liberia—A Land of Contrast

We're a few months into living in a country completely new to us, and we're definitely discovering that Liberia is a place of striking contrasts, from enormous storms with huge amounts of rain, to a dry season scorching enough to force Dave into the role of firefighter as the dry brushland near MAF's beautiful hangar caught on fire.



From extreme poverty, with people begging in desperation at the entrance to shops, to beautiful smiles, contentment, and heartfelt worship to God within the churches.



It's a country where we repeatedly hear that the work of MAF is more than just something to cut a few hours off a trip into the interior, but a ministry without which, so much amazing work would fail to happen. From medevac flights for patients with critical spinal issues which simply couldn't have been done by road, to Bible translators presenting a completed New Testament in a local language to ecstatic believers. These are the stories we hear about day in and day out; people who can use their time so much more effectively following an hour long flight, rather than a twenty hour journey by car. Though there are challenging days for us here, with ants who have a taste for human flesh and giant spiders and jellyfish washing up on our lovely beach with their vicious stings, hearing about the work enabled by MAF makes it all worthwhile.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

PRAY...

- For Dave's work in various different areas of MAF.
- For Becky as she starts thinking about opportunities to serve the wonderful people of Liberia.
- That we would continue to thrive in this sometimes challenging environment.

PRAISE...

- Continued good health as we settle into a new country.
- The amazing (and continually expanding!) MAF team we're working with here.
- Rain! After weeks of uninterrupted sunshine, a storm freshened things up and restored some green to the grass.

STAY IN TOUCH



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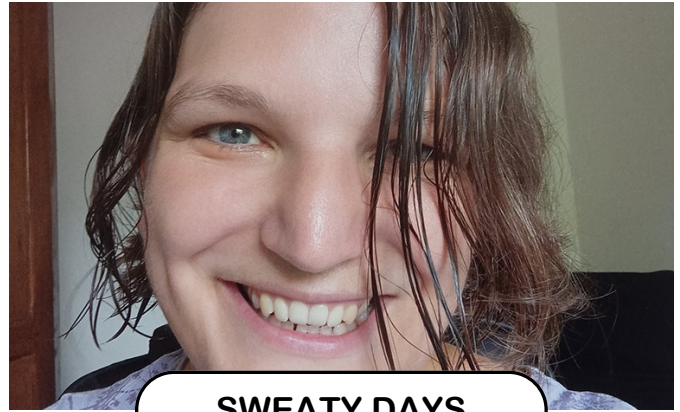
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Life in Liberia—Settling and Sweating!



ALL THE HATS!

My working days are incredibly varied because I don't have one set role within MAF. I'm the regional avionics manager for Africa, I've helped with plans for building new houses in Liberia, and recently I've joined in with setup for the Guinea programme, including taking on the role of maintenance controller. In the last couple of weeks I've organised the purchase and setup of a backup generator to plug into the solar panels and batteries that we have, to ensure our houses keep power when the rest of the city goes dark (a frequent occurrence!). That's just a taste of some of my roles. Jumping from job to job is a challenge, but I love it!



SWEATY DAYS

Doing anything in this highly humid climate leads to a lot of sweat! One role I've taken on is looking after the MAF Kit—a supply of kitchen equipment, bedding, towels, curtains, etc. That kit is provided to new families entering the programme, to give them a bit of time to sort out their own supplies. The job has involved working out what we actually had already, doing some shopping to fill in the gaps, and then making sure everything was in place ready for our newest family who arrived in country in February. With our team set to double in size in the next year or two, there are likely to be many more sweaty days getting organised!



Welcome to Our New House

Can you see it? No, neither can we! But this piece of land is where our new house will appear over the next few months. At the moment we're living in an existing MAF house, but we'll move out to make room for a family who needs the bigger space. We are thanking God that in the last few weeks all of the pieces for building have come together—the project has been funded, a project manager appointed, and the site plans finalised. We'll be breaking ground soon to put up three new three bedroom properties for this very quickly expanding team.

Home life can be a challenge here, so having a nice place to come back to is important. In the last few weeks there have frequently been periods of no power for two to three days at a time. Without our solar panels we would have had nothing at all, but our system isn't quite powerful enough to keep all of the houses going through the night (hence the need for our new generator). It's definitely an extra stress, wondering what you'll be able to keep running, and trying to sleep in 30+ degree temperatures without even a fan to cool you down. Couple that with occasional water outages, and you can imagine the difficulties in getting smelly and sweaty clothes washed and dried (not to mention smelly and sweaty bodies!).

The new houses will be equipped with individual solar systems, as well as solar water heaters. That's going to be a huge help for keeping us going, and reducing our environmental impact, as much of the power generation in the country is based on burning diesel, especially in the dry season when Liberia's hydropower stations struggle to keep up because of the lack of water.

Can You Partner With Us?

We are fully funded to be here in Liberia by individuals and churches who faithfully support us with regular giving and ongoing prayer. The work we're doing simply wouldn't happen if it wasn't for that support. If you would be interested in joining our team, we would be so thankful—no gift is too small! You can find out more by visiting our page on the MAF website:

www.maf-uk.org/waterman

Thank you and thank you again for walking with us on this amazing adventure—we wouldn't be here without you! We love hearing from you too, so please do send a message to say hello and let us know how we can pray for you.

Rebe & Becky

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MAF UK is a registered Charity in England & Wales (1064598) and in Scotland (SC039107)

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