

Summer, 2022 - Newsletter

Major Surgery in Monrovia

There are certain things you expect when moving to a developing nation. Frequent power and water outages (we've had our share of those in the last few months), feeling far from friends and family (mitigated by the amazing team we get to work with, see photo above from our MAF day of prayer), dealing with tropical diseases like malaria and typhoid...

What you don't necessarily prepare for is waking up on a normal day and needing to rush to a mission hospital for major surgery.

The 2nd of June started like any other day. Our alarm sounded at 5:50am and we got up, Dave got changed for work and we sat down to breakfast. Suddenly, Dave felt a pain on the right hand side of his abdomen. Within half an hour it was excruciating, and we drove the mercifully short journey to ELWA hospital, on the other side of the compound we live on. He was diagnosed with acute appendicitis. Within an hour and a half he was in surgery, having his appendix removed.

The situation we found ourselves in was far from ideal, but we were amazed at the provision and care we received. From a friend who is a nurse at the hospital not resting until she'd called every surgeon to get one there, to a private room for Dave to recover in, to power which stayed on consistently for the whole duration of his stay, allowing air conditioning... every detail worked out better than we could have hoped. God is good!

Dave is back at home now, and recovering from his experience! He'll have a good scar as a souvenir from his stay in hospital, and it'll be a few weeks until he's back up to full strength.



The perils of being too tall—custom bed extension with an empty IV bottle and a bag.



Post surgery, in the hospital room we'd call home for two nights.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

PRAY...

- For a speedy recovery for Dave, post surgery.
- For protection from covid, as a couple of cases have been reported on the compound.
- For a trip to America in August, when Dave will take exams to gain his American maintenance approval.

PRAISE...

- For God's protection and provision, even in difficult circumstances.
- For the slightly cooler weather the rainy season has brought.
- For the amazing work of MAF in Liberia and Guinea, reaching many with essential help and the hope of the gospel message.

STAY IN TOUCH



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A gentle stroll in the hospital garden, featuring a memorial for those who lost their lives to Ebola.



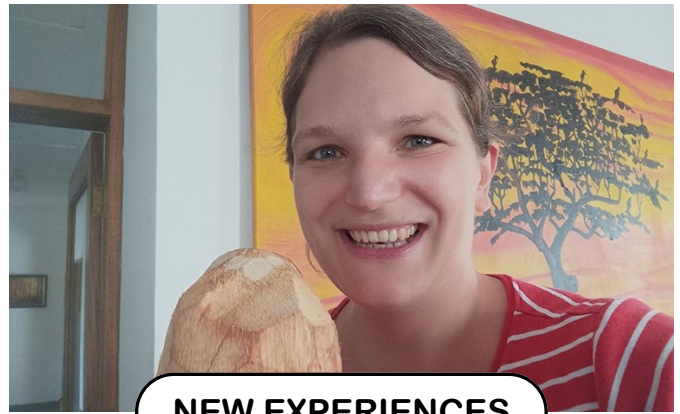
Hospital food—Liberian style. Spicy chicken and cassava greens. They don't really do 'mild'.

Life in Liberia (pre surgery!)



ORGANISATION

Though the construction of the hangar in Liberia is all finished, it still needs a lot of organisation. I was very thankful for a container that arrived from the UK with new shelving, ready to organise the stores from the shipping container where they'd been since they arrived, into the proper stores room in the hangar. Thankfully there is air conditioning in the stores room, but even so it was a very hot and sweaty job! We're still waiting on delivery of a container from America which has been delayed multiple times, with extra tools and parts that we need.



NEW EXPERIENCES

There are so many new experiences to enjoy with living in a new country. I loved sampling some fresh coconut recently, purchased from the side of the road. Coconuts are one type of fruit that grows very well in this country. I've been able to join with a ladies Bible study group which meets on our compound, and it's been great to start making friends with women working in a variety of different ministries. I've also started work on my first non-fiction book, exploring the idea of faith by digging into the stories of the heroes of faith found in Hebrews 11 in the Bible.

Flying Hope in Liberia

Dave was recently able to escape the hangar to join with a flight to the west of Liberia. It's so great to be able to see the impact of the work of MAF first hand. On this particular flight, a group from the Evangelical Soul Rescue Mission (ESORM) were flying with a team from the USA to



save a journey that would otherwise have taken two full days by road. The aim of ESORM is to transform lives through Christian education. Their work helps orphans and other children who would otherwise have no chance of entering the school system, with the aim that no child should ever be left behind because of their circumstances.

Along with working in one of ESORM's three schools and supporting others hoping to start another school in another town, the team also travelled with a nurse who was able to teach hygiene and health awareness to the children and community. Amazingly, the founder of ESORM, Terri, was also able to fly with us to see the school that she had helped to found in the town of Zwedru for the very first time, all thanks to our small planes.

We hear stories like this every week, flights for missionaries reaching churches in tiny villages in the middle of the jungle, offering training and teaching for pastors. Flights for medical professionals impacting communities with limited access to medical care. Flights for other amazing organisations such as Mercy Ships, preparing for their floating hospital's arrival next year. It's so exciting to be able to play a small role in helping all of this incredible work to happen.

Join Our Support Team

We are only able to serve with MAF in Liberia thanks to the amazing donations of individuals, churches and groups. If you would like to join our support team, you can make a regular or a one-off donation on the MAF website:

www.maf-uk.org/waterman

You can also support us by holding us up in your thoughts and prayers. We love to hear from you too, so please do feel free to stay in touch and encourage us in that way.

Thank you so much for joining us on this amazing adventure, we're so glad we get to share a little bit of this incredible journey with you. Your prayers and support mean the world to us!

Rene & Becky

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