

Autumn, 2022 - Newsletter

Adventures in America

It's hard to believe that this time, three months ago, Dave was in hospital following major surgery for appendicitis. We can't thank you enough for your thoughts and prayers through that time, and it's amazing how the timing worked out so that he would be fighting fit again, ready for our journey to the US of A in August. We thought we'd share a few highlights of our time there with you.



Our first stop in the States was the small city of Coshocton, Ohio. It's home to MMS Aviation, an amazing organisation training aircraft mechanics specifically for mission service.



Our primary purpose in travelling across the pond was for Dave to get an American (FAA) maintenance license. It meant two weeks of hard study and five exams, both written and practical.



It was a great relief to pass everything with flying colours! Now Dave is equipped to sign out the American registered plane flying in Guinea, and those that will soon be flying in Liberia.



One of the things we've been enjoying here is access to delicious fresh fruit. We couldn't help but pick up some strawberries at \$1.69, rather than the \$13.59 we've seen them for in Liberia!



After two weeks in Ohio, we flew west to Idaho, the place that MAF US calls home. While we were in the country it was a great time to meet the team Dave works closely with, and to get to see a new plane heading to Liberia later this year!



The MAF US facility is a great place, with apartments visiting staff can stay in and a lovely family centre, not to mention an amazing hangar facility and office. We had a wonderful week spending time with our American colleagues.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you keeping us in your thoughts and prayers!

PRAY...

- That the rest of our time in the USA would be a blessing, including a week of holiday.
- For a safe return to Liberia in mid-September.
- That we would adjust quickly back to life in Liberia, especially to the heat and humidity!

PRAISE...

- For Dave's complete recovery from his appendicitis.
- For safe travel to the USA, and a great time here so far.
- For Dave passing his exams and receiving a brand new American maintenance license!
- For God's continual provision and protection in our lives.

STAY IN TOUCH



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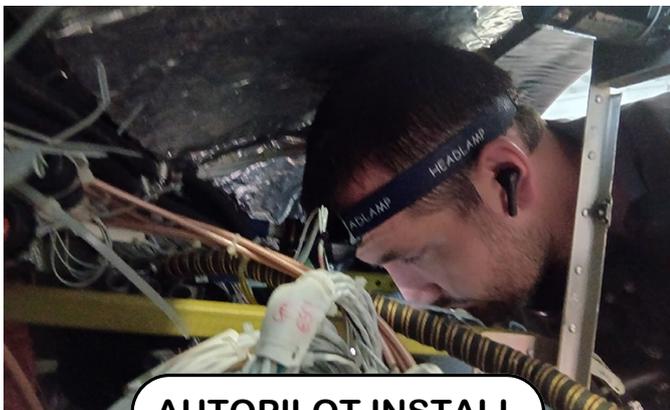


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/AdventureWithDaveBecky

Post Surgery—Returning to Routine



AUTOPILOT INSTALL

In the couple of weeks after I recovered from my surgery (and then from Covid!), there was a lot to get done before leaving for America. One of the biggest tasks was to install a brand new autopilot system into the MAF plane which is flying in Guinea. The new autopilot is a brand new unit from Garmin, and it was the first install into the MAF International fleet of planes. Though it was a challenge fitting into small spaces to run wiring with abdominal muscles protesting after not much use after the surgery, it was amazing to get it installed and working well.



STOCK CHECK

I was roped in to help with some work in the hangar as well, assisting Dave to complete a stock check of various parts and equipment in the new stores room along with Reinate, the wife of our country director. Everything had recently been transferred from a shipping container onto lovely new shelving racks, but it was a big job making sure everything was in the right place, and checking the quantities of every single item. It involved a lot of counting of tiny little parts, and then relabelling every item to be easy to find in the future. A tiring but very necessary job!



Home Sweet Home

The work of MAF in Liberia and Guinea is so essential, especially in the rainy season where roads become quagmires of mud. It's amazing to hear the stories of people who have flown on our little planes, able to reach their local areas through medical clinics, or translating the Bible into local languages, or helping to establish and support schools, or offering training to local pastors, to better equip them to reach their own communities. The list goes on and on and on. With so much demand for seats on MAF planes within the region, our team needs to grow rapidly to keep up with demand.

A part of that process involves building new houses to put new people in! If you're a regular reader, you may remember our newsletter from Spring, 2022, showing a big empty space, where three new houses are now springing up. We'll be moving into the far right new build on this picture, freeing up the four bedroom house we're currently in for a family who need the extra space. The building work will allow for three new essential families to join the team, and the hope is to be able to build another three homes in the following year to house even more staff.

It's incredibly exciting seeing this expansion, and knowing that its purpose is to keep our planes in the air, flying wonderful partners into difficult to reach areas to bring hope to isolated people.

Can You Join the Adventure?

Our work with MAF is completely funded by donations from individuals, churches and other groups. We simply wouldn't be here, doing this work, without your support. Your prayers keep us going as much as financial donations, but if you are able to give, either monthly or as a one off, you can visit our page on the MAF website to support us in that way:

www.maf-uk.org/waterman

Thank you so much for joining us on this amazing adventure—we realise more and more each year that we simply can't do it without your prayers and your support. We hope you know how much you mean to us.

Dave & Becky

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

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