

## Summer, 2023 - Newsletter

### Farewell UK, Hello Liberia

It's hard to explain the madness which preceded our leaving Liberia in March, 2023. With just a handful of days to go, our house was declared finished enough for us to move our possessions into. Manic days of Ikea furniture assembly, packing, sorting and unpacking ensued, as we roughly threw everything into cupboards. Without having slept a single night in the new place, we locked the door and headed to the airport.

Two months in the UK followed; a time of busyness as we spoke and preached at various churches and other gatherings around the south of the country, alongside catching up with friends and family.



Health checks in London are completed each time we're back in the UK to make sure we're healthy.

Living overseas gives you a different appreciation of those familiar things we once took for granted. We enjoyed many a long, rambling walk through the countryside, following footpath signs across farmland and enjoying the spectacular views of the English countryside, and eating far too many tasty treats, of course!



Presentations gave us a great chance to talk about MAF's amazing work in West Africa.



There's always time for an ice cream at the seaside, no matter how packed the schedule!

All in all, it was a wonderful couple of months, reminding us of our passion for MAF as we spoke about the incredible work facilitated by our planes, and giving us some much needed moments of rest.

As of the 30th of May, we're back in Liberia, ready for whatever this next phase of this adventure brings. We look forward to bring you with us on the journey!

### JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers.

### PRAY...

- That we would settle back into routine quickly, and adjust to the heat again.
- For Dave's back; an old injury has been causing him pain in a busy engineering time.
- For the staff we really need to help ease the load in Liberia—a maintenance manager and new pilots.

### PRaise...

- For a wonderful time back in the UK with friends, family and supporters.
- For safe travel back to Liberia, and all of our luggage arriving with us!
- For the lovely new house we're now living in and gradually making our home.

### STAY IN TOUCH



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# Settling Back Into Life in Liberia



**FOR DAVE**

It seems common for us to hit the ground running wherever we go, and the return to Liberia was no different. I was able to take a few days before going back to work in the hangar to help set the new house up, which involved a busy few days of unpacking, sorting and DIY projects. It's coming together now, and it's such a great place to come home to every day. Though I know it's going to be a busy time with work once again, I am very glad to be back in Liberia, helping to facilitate the incredible work which MAF is doing in this part of the world.



**FOR BECKY**

There are so many emotions that hit you as you leave your home country, to live in your adoptive country once again. In Liberia it's often the heat and humidity that's the biggest impression. One thing that's really impacted me, however, is the truly warm welcome back we have received. I have had handshakes and hugs from the guards who keep us safe on the compound, the lovely ladies who come to sell produce at the door, and even a friend who works at the local supermarket. It's definitely helped in feeling as though we have arrived back home.



## Let the Maintenance Begin!

It's not only house work keeping Dave busy, June is a month fully booked up with maintenance on all three of the West African fleet of Cessna Caravans. Because we are understaffed here with maintenance personnel, it is helpful to align the maintenance schedules, so that we can bring in a team of engineers to assist and get our planes back in the air as quickly, and as safely, as possible.

For this particular chunk of maintenance, we have help coming from Uganda, Australia and the Netherlands. There is a lot to get done, even with so many extra pairs of hands, with regular

inspections, defects to examine and correct, and even avionics installations in each of the three planes, providing the pilots with high quality equipment to aid them as they fly in the often complicated airspaces of Liberia and Guinea, particularly in the rainy season. A new transponder, weather radar and automatic engine monitor are ready to be put into place in the coming weeks.

As the physical work winds down toward the end of June, the pile of paperwork will continue. Part of the change in beginning to operate our planes on the American registration system, is a new piece of software to adjust to, and much historical data to copy from one system to another. It's easy to overlook all of these behind the scenes jobs that are very much a part of the life of maintenance, but they are just as essential as the physical labour, helping us to know when all of our planes require work to stay in tiptop shape.

## Can You Join the Adventure?

We had an amazing time sharing about the work of MAF in West Africa in our time in the UK, and it was lovely to catch so many of our supporters there! If you didn't know, we're only able to serve in Liberia because of people partnering with us in prayer, but also financially. If you are able to make a monthly or one-off donation to enable our work here, please head to our page on the MAF website:

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

Thank you, once again, for walking with us on this amazing adventure—we really wouldn't be here without you, and it's hard to express how much we value your prayers and your support.

*Dave & Becky*

**MAF UK**

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