

Spring, 2023 - Newsletter

Turning American

If you've been following along with our adventure here in Liberia, you'll know Dave had to make a trip to the States last year in order to get his American maintenance license. Both of our pilots in programme have also made that trip within the last year. But it's not only people who need to be American-ised in order to operate on the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), our planes needed to turn American too!

In early January, MAF Liberia received a brand new to MAF plane which was already registered in America. It had a long flight across the pond, and is already hard at work carrying people and essential cargo around the country.



As for our other plane however, that was registered in Uganda and needed to change. MAF keeps its planes to a really high standard of maintenance, but there were numerous tasks which needed completing to show compliance with the FAA system, not to mention a small mountain of paperwork to complete!

A huge effort began, spearheaded by Dave, to turn 5X-OPE into N110PE. It was a monumental task, one that could not be completed by the engineers we had in programme alone. And so a dream team was assembled, featuring staff from MAF US, a team from engineer missionary training school, MMS Aviation in Ohio, the engineer from neighbouring mission organisation, Samaritan's Purse, and a couple of other engineers from Canada and Uganda willing to come for a few weeks to help out.



From uncovering endless corrosion caused by the proximity to the ocean and the humidity of Liberia, to fighting with stubborn landing gear, to staying up late over a pizza to check all the paperwork was in line—it was a very busy start to 2023. It all felt worthwhile though, when OPE was issued with its own airworthiness certificate, allowing it to legally fly under the FAA system.

With that work completed, there are now three American, N-registered aircraft operating within West Africa, two in Liberia and one in Guinea.

It's these extraordinary efforts behind the scenes which allow MAF's planes to keep flying within West Africa, carrying Bibles in local languages to rural churches, performing real life-saving medical evacuations to missionaries serving in areas with terrible road access, helping the local church take the gospel message across the region and so much more.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

PRAY...

- For the completion of our new house, so we can move in before leaving for the UK.
- For the two months we will spend in the UK in April & May, catching up with friends, family & supporters.
- For important missing gaps in our team—we really need another pilot and engineer.
- Against corruption which can make it difficult to operate.

PRAISE...

- For good health through what has been a very busy few months for us both.
- For the airworthiness certificate recently granted to our plane, N110PE, allowing it to continue flying.
- For the amazing team of Liberians & expats we have the honour of working with.

STAY IN TOUCH



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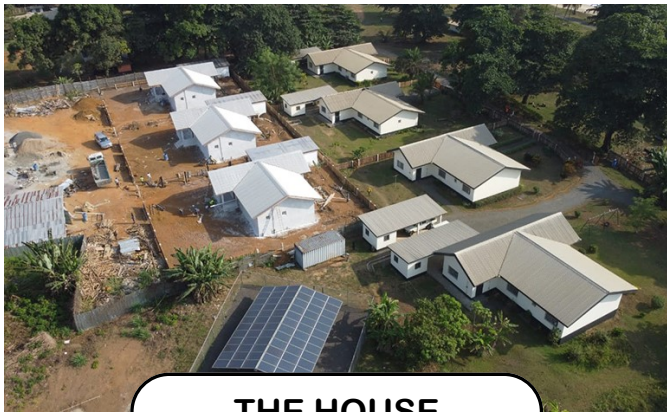


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/AdventureWithDaveBecky

Updates from Liberia



THE HOUSE

We are seeing progress on our new home every day, but there are still some outstanding tasks to finish before we can move in. A container is due to arrive from the Netherlands any day now, complete with furniture and essential equipment for connecting the new houses up with electricity. We are praying it clears the port quickly so that everything can be completed and we can move all of our possessions over before leaving for the UK. Thankfully the house is only a few metres away from the one we're currently in, so we don't have to carry boxes far!



THE TEAM

Part of the urgency for getting out of the house we're in at the moment is because the MAF team is growing! A new family will travel here in April to move into our existing home, to take on the role of operations manager. Another new couple has recently arrived, providing us with a new manager who will help to bear some of the load for keeping the programme running, while learning how management within MAF and aviation works. We will also have a new regional finance manager starting within the next few months. All essential roles to keep our planes in the air!

We're Coming to the UK!

It's that time again! We'll be jumping on a plane on the 29th of March for our next visit to the UK. This is such a wonderful opportunity for us to catch up with friends and family, have some medical checks, visit the MAF UK and MAF International teams based in the UK, and do some essential shopping for those luxuries we can't get hold of in day to day life here in Liberia.

It also gives us an opportunity to speak about what we've been up to during the last year and a bit, and how MAF is impacting Liberia and West Africa. You can find the details of our speaking engagements below—please do feel free to come along if you're in the area, we'd really love to see you! You can send us an email for more information, or if you'd like to catch up with us personally as well. It's a real joy for us to have the chance to meet with so many of our wonderful supporters, and to find out how we can be praying for you too.

For more information about our schedule, including where in the country we'll be when, visit our website to see a calendar of all our dates, which we keep updated as events are booked in—www.dbwaterman.com/calendar.

Can You Join the Adventure?

Did you know that we're only able to continue with our work in Liberia because of individuals, churches and other groups who support us financially? Your prayers keep us going as much as financial support, but if you are able to help us with a monthly or a one-off donation, please head to our page on the MAF UK website:

www.maf-uk.org/waterman

2023 Home Assignment—Confirmed Speaking Dates

16th April @ 10:30—Connect Church Maidstone

23rd April @ 10:30—Testwood Baptist Church, Totton (Becky preaching)

24th April, evening—Hungerford Methodist Church

30th April @ 19:00—Testwood Baptist Church, Totton

3rd May @ 11:00—North Bradley Baptist Church Together Group

7th May—Visit to One Church Gloucester

13th May, evening—St Margaret's Church, Angmering

14th May @ 10:00—St Margaret's Church, Angmering

21st May @ 10:30—St Katharine's Church, Holt

Thank you so much for joining us on this amazing adventure—it's your prayers, encouragement and support which keep us going, especially in this busy season. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dave & Becky

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

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