



SUMMER, 2024 - NEWSLETTER

OUR RETURN TO LIBERIA—THE CHALLENGES AND BLESSINGS

To say we've hit the ground running in Liberia after a few weeks out would be a massive understatement. Every day has brought fresh challenges, from finding a termite infestation in an MAF house needed to put guests in, to our car breaking, yet again, with another expensive repair bill to come, to various travel by other staff resulting in us being the only international family in programme when we landed, to attempted thefts on the compound we live on, and some ruthless responses to the level of desperation many in the country are feeling due to such extreme poverty.

On top of his many roles, Dave is now the acting country director for Liberia for the next few weeks, as our temporary manager returns to South Africa for time with his family. If you've followed our progress recently, you'll know that's a lot on top of an already very busy schedule, but there's really no one else to take on the responsibility.

We feel in the thick of battle right now, and we need you. We need you to hold us up in prayer, for energy, for health, for things to stop breaking, for spiritual and emotional wellbeing. *The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results*—James 5:16b.

Despite it all, we are counting our blessings. Since our last newsletter, Dave had a highly profitable time of training and connection in the USA, with the MAF US team, and other avionics engineers within MAF International. We are also thrilled at the success of James, the first Liberian to make it onto the national engineering training scheme within MAF. Dave has been able to help with his initial training, and we're so excited to see James' drive and desire to succeed in this area.

It has also been wonderful to be so warmly welcomed back by the Liberian staff both within MAF, and those who work around the compound we live on. Seeing a beaming smile on the face of our regular banana door-to-door salesperson was a real joy.

There's no way to deny the challenges we're facing right now, but we continue to see God's goodness in both the small and large details of our lives here. We are always blown away by the stories we hear, facilitated by the work of MAF in Liberia: children who can receive an education, patients who can receive medicine, the hopeless hearing about the love of Jesus.



Breakfast in the States with MAF colleagues.



Training our future Liberian engineer.



Stormy skies in Liberia's rainy season.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

PRAY...

- For strength, energy, good health and protection in this very busy season.
- For the MAF Liberia staff who are travelling at the moment (almost everyone aside from us!), for safe journeys and good times of refreshing.
- For a team of five engineers travelling to help with maintenance in July.

PRAISE...

- For a truly wonderful and refreshing time of R&R in the UK, and in Norway.
- For safe travels both leaving and returning to Liberia.
- For you! We are constantly blown away by your financial support, your prayers and your encouragement.

STAY IN TOUCH



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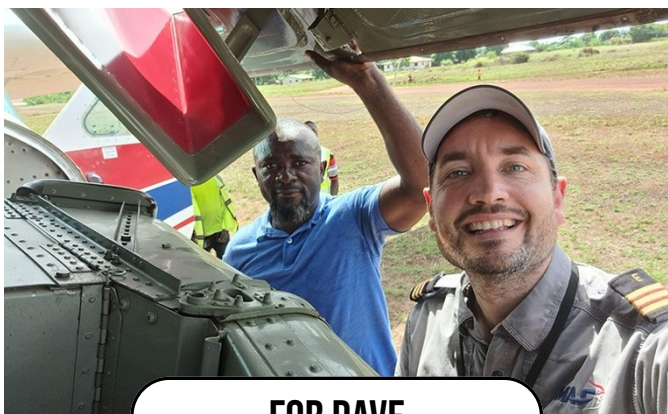


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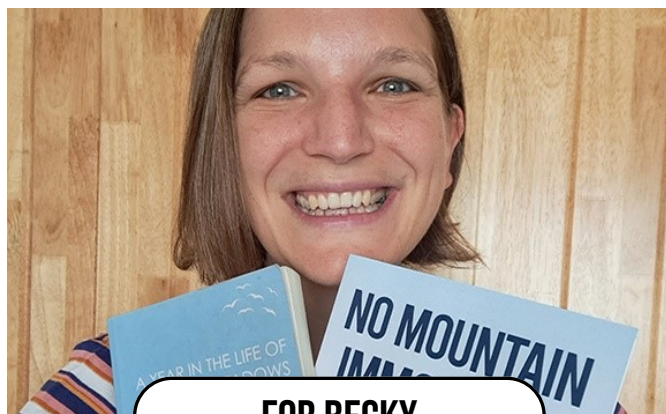
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THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE



FOR DAVE

Our reason for moving to Liberia was to establish a maintenance hub in West Africa, and to change the registration of our planes to a sustainable system. With those goals achieved, and new engineers due to arrive later this year who will be able to manage the day to day maintenance here, I am considering what position within MAF may be next for me. MAF Liberia is less in need of a strategic thinker for development now, and I am keen to be able to use those skills. Please pray for God to open the right doors and for a new position to sink my teeth into.



FOR BECKY

I now have two books published, A Year in the Life of Jack Meadows and No Mountain Immovable (both available on Amazon!), and I'm debating what I should work on next. With the busyness and complexity of life in Liberia, I have not had much space and energy for creativity in the last few months, which has made it difficult to consider a future project. Please pray with me for some divine inspiration, the energy to get started, and also wisdom as to whether to continue with existing projects, such as my weekly YouTube Bible thoughts. Thank you!



PRECIOUS MOMENTS

We climbed aboard a plane in Liberia on the 17th of May, feeling, if we're honest, thoroughly exhausted. The following four weeks were a wonderful whirlwind of time with family, celebrating some big birthdays and other occasions, as well as some very special holiday time for the two of us. We enjoyed long walks in the British countryside, a wonderful five days at a spiritual retreat at Lee Abbey in Devon, and even a week long cruise to Norway, where we found some snow to play in!



Getting out of the busy routine and seemingly endless challenges of Liberia was wonderfully refreshing for us both. We landed back home in West Africa on the 14th of June and were greeted by the intense humidity, and an enormous rainstorm on our drive from the airport to our house. Rainy season has arrived in force, and it has rained heavily every day since our return. The temperature drops by a couple of degrees in this season which makes a surprising difference. It's not uncommon to see Liberians wrapped up in thick coats and woollen hats—much like our look

in the freezing temperatures of Norway—even though it's still 28°C!

A change of scene was amazing for us, but we are working hard to appreciate the precious moments in every single day. In Liberia those involve daily walks by the ocean, delicious mangoes, and dramatic thunderstorms splitting the night sky with lightning and window-rattling thunder. It's a great practice—what precious moment are you thankful for today?

Can You Join the Adventure?

The cost of living seems to have increased around the globe, and that means the cost for keeping us here in Liberia has also risen. We're funded by donations from churches, groups and individuals—it's the only reason we can be here doing this work. If you are able to make a monthly or one-off donation, please head to our page on the MAF website:

www.maf-uk.org/waterman

We want to thank you again for walking with us on this adventure. It's not always easy, and knowing we have such an amazing team with us is a huge encouragement and blessing. We love and appreciate you very much!

Dave & Becky

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