

A year of great blessing

Mission Aviation Fellowship UK 2008 Report





What is MAF?

MAF supports the work of sharing the love of Christ through word and practical means by flying people safely, by reaching remote communities, by linking people with information quickly and easily, and by supplying goods and services economically and efficiently. The principal operational activity is the provision of an aviation service in parts of the world where surface travel is impossible or very difficult. MAF's services are carried out by those who use their skills in aviation and other fields to work with national churches, relief and development agencies, missions, hospitals and governments to meet the most pressing of human needs.

Message from the Chairman and the Chief Executive

A year of great blessing

MAF has been greatly blessed by God in 2008, and it is only right that we should acknowledge His greatness. In a year that has seen many challenges, the whole team at MAF has looked to God for His help and found Him to be faithful



Meeting the global fuel crisis

Perhaps the greatest single pressure during 2008 came from the extraordinary rise in the cost of fuel for our aircraft. With the price of aviation fuel reaching more than £8 per gallon in the isolated locations where we serve, a reduction in our services looked a very real possibility as the rapid escalation in fuel costs threatened our operations. Although prices have now fallen

back from these levels, the cost of aviation fuel has remained stubbornly high in the areas of the world in which we operate. After much prayer and seeking God's wisdom, MAF UK launched an appeal to our Supporters asking them to help meet the additional costs that we faced as a consequence of these rising fuel prices. On behalf of the whole MAF family, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed so generously to the £1,430,000 raised. Without the prayer support, encouragement and gifts from our Supporters, none of the operational highlights below would have been possible.

Enabling rebuilding

MAF has often been one of the first organisations to arrive in affected areas, flying in teams to assess the damage and commence the huge task of rebuilding communities. MAF assisted partner organisations in Bangladesh, working to construct houses where cyclone *Sidr* left 1½ million people homeless. As the country has begun to rebuild from the effects of cyclone *Sidr*, our work was multiplied through a grant from DFID for which we are very grateful. With ongoing flight support, Habitat for Humanity and Christian Aid Ministries were able to work in the remote village of Mirzaganj where 3,000 houses had been totally destroyed.

We have also been able to respond to natural disasters in other countries.

Medical safaris

Conflict in Chad forced the closure of our service in February, but key staff returned and restarted operations in May. Flying to remote communities such as Gama, Kimré, Bembare and Koblagué means medical teams can devote more time to delivering medical care to patients, and to training local nurses.

In Chidudu, Tanzania, a long queue of mothers waiting with young children to be weighed, vaccinated or seen by the doctor is now a sobering sight. But just how many of these children will make it to their fifth – or even first – birthday? Their chances are higher as our monthly flights bring in medical teams.

Responding to conflict

MAF worldwide also faced the difficulties of civil unrest and war in several countries in which we operate, including Kenya, Chad and Sudan. We are thankful to God for the safety of our staff and our aircraft in these turbulent times, and that MAF flights brought assistance to many people whose lives had been threatened and blighted by conflict.

Following post-election violence in



Kenya, we received an endless stream of emergency calls. In the first 2 days, we evacuated 75 Kenyan people from Eldoret, Kisumu, Kitale and Homa Bay. With fresh flare-ups as January closed, flights to and from the Rift Valley rescued 50 more from a horrible fate.

Saving lives

Two young boys in Madagascar, Todisoa and Rakotozafimimahaleo, had exposed hernias. The doctor advised that both of the lads would die without surgery. We flew them to the capital Antananarivo. Twenty days later, we flew the boys home, both of them having recovered. Country Director Jakob Adolf comments, 'Saving these young lives alone made it worth building the new airstrip in Sahakevo.'

In Kenya, pilot Derek Reeh was called upon at 9pm to evacuate a patient with kidney failure from Uganda. Committed out-of-hours teamwork right through the night enabled us to collect the patient and transport him safely and swiftly to Nairobi, where an ambulance rushed him to hospital.

A partially-paralysed woman delivered twins prematurely in Bangladesh. All three were in a very serious condition. Our plane sped to Barisal Airport to rush the family to Dhaka. Only by the grace of God was the MAF aircraft so close that day and available to respond immediately.

Carrying the Gospel

The main focus of Aid Sudan is training Sudanese and Ugandan pastors. But Aid Sudan also seeks to meet physical needs,

establishing wells, training teachers, and teaching hygiene. Four times a year, we fly teams into three different remote locations to progress their projects.

Evangelist Ruth Kambenga joins up with our monthly Kilimatinde Safari in Tanzania. She writes, 'With the plane, I can spend a whole day each month at Mahaka without neglecting my family. I know that God has called me to tell people the Good News in Mahaka. It has made a huge difference in the community there.'

Laura Westley flew trainers to Ulaangom in Mongolia's extreme west for a leadership course. The 100 delegates assumed that their training would endorse 'being in charge'. They were amazed at the 'servant leader' concept presented. In Mongolia, Christianity is seen as both autocratic and domineering. Now these delegates have seen Christianity in action.

In Papua New Guinea, the year saw the completion of an 18-year project by Wycliffe Bible Translators to translate the New Testament into the Bimin language. Having provided air support to the Wycliffe team over the years, MAF staff were invited to the dedication celebrations, flying in other guests as well.

Multiplying ministry

MAF works in partnership with more than 1,000 relief, aid and mission organisations in over 35 developing countries, enabling them to reach and help more people more quickly than could be achieved without the

use of aircraft. In this way, we live out our vision to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ's Name. Our ability to serve even more remote





communities has been enhanced during 2008 by the opening of 20 new airstrips around the world.

Building airstrips

Partnering with HoverAid, we are helping to establish medical outreach in remote Ankavandra, Madagascar. Our team plans to build an airstrip closer to the village, as the current strip is unusable when river levels are high. This will enable regular healthcare provision for the villagers.

The landing strip at Derre in central Mozambique was cleared for MAF to land there for the first time in October. Trees were chopped down, the grass cut and the surface compacted. This is good news for Boa Nova Para Africa (New Tribes Mission), which serves in Derre and uses our flights from South Africa.

Our Uganda team began planning an airstrip for Buvu, one of the Ssesse Islands in Lake Victoria. The island community is very excited about the venture. We met with local councillors, the Chief of Police and members of the community before surveying the potential site.

Strengthening service

In Juba, southern Sudan, significant human effort in oppressively hot temperatures has enabled development of the MAF compound and sub-base. Organisations including World Vision, Food for the Hungry, Medair and ADRA have a big presence in Juba. With one of our aircraft now based there, a pilot has joined the team, serving the area more effectively and efficiently.

One flight from Juba carried ten pastor-students of Africa Inland Church back to their home area around Lekongole, where their village community and extended family were waiting. Having been away for more than eight months, their return was greeted with dancing, singing, hugging and joyful tears.

Providing resources

During 2008, we give thanks to God for:

- An increase of 15% in the income of MAF UK to £10.5 million (2007: 4.9% to £9.2m)
 - An increase of 9,900 in our UK Supporter base (2007: 9,700)
 - Two new families joined MAF UK (commencing or preparing for service with MAF overseas)
 - Our second annual Day of Prayer under the banner 'Your Kingdom Come'
- These achievements also reflect the dedication and hard work of all our staff, Volunteers and Supporters, to whom we extend our warmest thanks.

Facing challenges with prayer

The dangers faced daily by MAF's pilots were brought home to us all by the sad loss of pilot Hadleigh Smith in an accident in Australia. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, but this serves as a reminder that we need your constant prayer support.

The economic difficulties facing the whole world may present many people with further challenges in the year ahead. But we have confidence in our great God. Please do pray that His work, through MAF, will continue to bring blessing in 2009.

Yours in Christ

John Quin, Chairman, MAF UK

Ruth Whitaker, Chief Executive, MAF UK



Flying for Life

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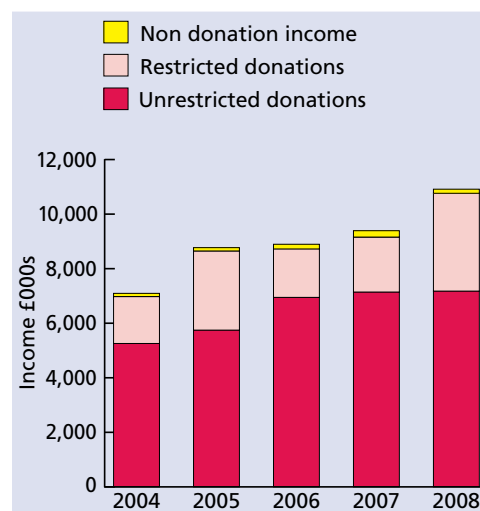
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Illustration of Financial Activities

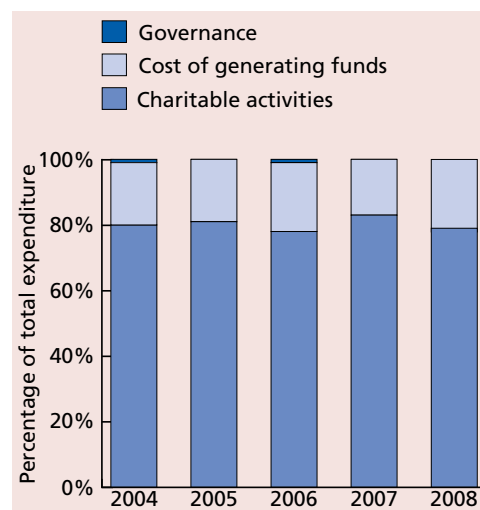
Resources received

Total for 2008: £10.5 million



Resources used

Total for 2008: £9.8 million



The balance of funds received is held to help ensure MAF's operations can continue during the global financial downturn.

The purpose of this summary is to present simply and concisely the sources and uses of funds during the year.

These charts are based on information contained in the Fellowship's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 which were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 March 2009 and an unqualified audit report has been received.

This summary financial information may not contain sufficient detail to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. Copies of the accounts are available from the registered office of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

John Quin, Chairman, MAF UK