



Summer 2020 Newsletter

Uganda in Lockdown

Perhaps the strangest thing we have found in the last couple of months is how quiet the city of Kampala can be. This is a bustling metropolis, always full of noise and movement, at any time, day or night. Since lockdown started, things have seemed silent by comparison. As we write this, some noise begins to return with vehicles allowed on the road again and shops reopening (along with their sound systems), but it is still incredibly still at night, through the 7pm—6.30am curfew.

Uganda’s lockdown was put in place before there was a case of the coronavirus here, and the early restrictions do seem to have helped a lot as the number of cases remains low. The measures did come with a cost however, mostly to those many people who work each day for the money they need for that moment. With public transport shut down, along with the small shops selling anything other than food, millions of people instantly lost their livelihoods.

The government provided food aid, but reaching every community has been an incredible challenge. We have supported the ministry of our church as it has reached out into the local populace to deliver tonnes of food. The Hallel youth ministry, which we also support, has also provided food for its members, and even helped some of them to set up a small business selling fruits and vegetables.

As MAF, we have been out of operation throughout the lockdown, save for a few members of staff who have been able to go to the hangar to keep the aircraft maintained. We have also had an airfield crew working very hard to restore the airstrip to working order, as the rising level of the lake has caused severe flooding.

Thankfully with transport opening up a little more, we have been able to have more staff come back to work, and even operate a few flights to the Kasese region of Uganda with essential aid. Floods have absolutely devastated that district of the country, and it was amazing seeing every member of MAF in Uganda jump into action to get the planes up and running, or to support the mission from a distance in prayer.



Mandatory masks for moving around



Distribution of food by Gaba Community Church



Three MAF planes delivering food and hygiene supplies to the flooded Kasese region in Uganda

Join the Adventure

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

Pray...

- For Uganda, as people struggle with coronavirus restrictions preventing them from working.
- For Becky as she looks for a publisher for her novel.
- For MAF in Uganda, and around the world, as we think how best to help people at this time.

Praise...

- For good health for us both as we have worked from home.
- For productivity, and new opportunities for different ways of working.
- For technology, allowing us to stay in contact with family, friends and churches.

Stay in Touch



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Life in Lockdown



FOR DAVE

Lockdown hasn't included a lot of downtime for me. With supporting all of our programmes in Africa, and also working on some long term project proposals, I have found myself as busy as ever. We live on a lovely compound which is a really nice and quiet place to work (especially as all the bars have been closed so there's no distant music playing). I am happy to be able to work in the hangar part time now for a change of scene and to get my hands on aircraft again!



FOR BECKY

I've kept busy in this lockdown time in a couple of different ways. First, as all of my Bible studies and preaching engagements were cancelled, I have taken the opportunity to record videos to upload to YouTube each week, exploring some thoughts from the Bible. You can check them all out on our YouTube channel if you're interested. I also used the time to finish editing my second novel, which has now been sent to an initial batch of literary agents.



Scouting the Ssesse Islands

Uganda is a country which has seen a lot of development in the last few years. Roads are improving all of the time, and transportation to destinations in all corners of Uganda becomes more cost effective and practical for residents. There is one area however, which remains incredibly isolated and difficult to reach, and that is the Ssesse Islands found on Lake Victoria. During the lockdown, Dave was able to go on a flight in partnership with the Ugandan government to survey the islands and see if there would be any way that MAF could help to reach these very isolated individuals.

The day began with an early start and a trip down to Entebbe International Airport, where Dave was collected by the surveillance plane which would conduct the survey. From the air, there was an exceptional view of the many different islands, some clustered together, others more isolated. Communities were visible on the islands, and we paid particular attention to any areas that had churches or schools, knowing they would be great partners to work with if we were able to reach into those areas. The work would be challenging, requiring additional airstrips on islands big enough to boast the space needed, or alternatively a floatplane which could reach out to smaller communities. It will be some time before any decisions are reached as to whether we can practically impact these people, but it is great to have the research conducted and ready for that moment.

It was very sobering to see the impact of the flooding on Lake Victoria at first hand. Underwater buildings and flooded shorelines were a stark reminder of the power of water. We pray that the people living so remotely there would find safety and security, and that one day we would be able to reach them directly.

Can You Join the Adventure?

We are only able to be here in Uganda, working with MAF, because of the wonderful generosity of individuals and churches who support us financially and prayerfully. We'd love to invite you to join the adventure too! 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 say thank you so much for walking on this amazing adventure with us. Your prayers and encouragements keep us going. Please do stay in touch, and know that you are in our prayers as well.

Dave & Becky

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

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