New growth

As I look out into my garden, there are imminent signs of new life; the snowdrops are starting to bloom and new buds are appearing on the trees.

Every year, the plants grow, taking over new ground and spreading themselves into new areas of the garden. Isaiah 54:2 comes to mind, ‘Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.’

This year at MAF Scotland, we are trying out a new style of approach in order to increase our church partnerships, strengthen our prayer support and increase the number of Scottish staff serving overseas.

We are venturing into new areas to engage fresh audiences and maximise income growth.

Our aim is to stimulate new minds — both young and old — with the work of MAF and the impact of a life that knows Jesus.

With any new approach to mission there is increased risk, but this is always underpinned by abundant grace to grow in faith.

Join us in prayer as we step out in faith, to increase help, hope and healing and change the nations for Jesus.

Together in Christ

Heather Malloch
Head of MAF in Scotland

It’s party time!

Oh, I do like a party! And, by now, most — if not all — of our faithful supporters are aware that 2020 is MAF’s 75th birthday.

It’s not that we need an excuse to celebrate what the Lord has done through MAF but, hey, why not celebrate and give thanks to our faithful God?!

MAF Scotland has planned a wide selection of full-on, family fun days, placed strategically around the country. We’ll be bringing the MAF Scotland display plane, our flight simulator, the MAF rescue challenge (a team event that’s a cross between The Crystal Maze and The Krypton Factor), the MAF photo exhibition and much, much more.

These free events will run from 10am till 5pm approximately and, in the evening, we’ll hold a celebration with speakers, worship and messages from the MAF world.

In the meantime, why not invite your local MAF speaker along to your church or group (see the enclosed leaflet)? You could have your very own 75th anniversary celebrations, complete with the full audio-visual experience of MAF through the years!

Take a look at the diary section on the back cover of the Special for an event near you — mark it in bold, red ink on your calendar and bring the entire family along!
The bigger picture
Andy Martin chats with recent recruits, Communications and Marketing Administrator Cortney Lee and Office Administrator Sheonagh Struthers

Hello, ladies — tell us about yourselves in one sentence.
Cortney: I live in Glasgow’s West End, with my husband Stuart and my wee, six-year-old dog Murchadh.
Sheonagh: I’m a loyal, fun, hardworking half South African-half Scottish woman who loves Jesus, dancing and the great outdoors!

What’s your church life like?
Cortney: I go to Re-hope West End which is vibrant, full of life and constantly changing. I really respect the faithfulness and tenacity of our leaders in pursuing God’s direction.
Sheonagh: I serve on the Praise and Worship teams at C7 Church, Glasgow. I love serving as I believe it’s an act of worship.

What attracted you to work for MAF?
Cortney: Two words I use frequently to describe MAF are ‘specialised’ and ‘efficient’. It’s also an extremely pragmatic organisation and that drew me to it. This role suits my skills and experience, but I want to get fully involved in MAF’s bigger picture — real solutions to worldwide problems.
Sheonagh: I previously worked for the charity SHARE (Scotland Housing Associations Resources for Education), but I’ve always been eager to be part of a team that’s advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Tell us about your interests and hobbies
Cortney: I like being out with friends at any of Glasgow’s many great restaurants.
Sheonagh: In my spare time, I enjoy travelling, dancing, socialising, reading, walking (weather permitting) and going to the gym.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?
Cortney: I’m very interested in seeing the Arctic. It would be great to experience how resourceful people are in a completely different climate to ours. I’d also be on the lookout for the cool marine life!
Sheonagh: India — I love the vibrancy of the culture and the wonderful food.

Setting his sights high!
Cameron Paterson went all out for MAF recently when he took on the Couch to 5K running plan.
The 13-year-old from Edinburgh completed his first ever 5km run in a fantastic 30 minutes, and raised £1,000 for MAF!
Cameron is thinking of becoming a pilot and says, ‘I wanted to help MAF as it supports a lot of people around the world.’

Thank you, Cameron!
I arrived in PNG feeling both overwhelmed and thankful. A group of MAF mums and their children welcomed me at arrivals which was just lovely. They’d set my house up for me and left me some fruit, flowers, welcome cards and some food, so I didn’t have to worry about shopping just yet. Such a wonderful blessing!

Day one was straight into language study, learning Tok Pisin, or: ‘(Mi) kisim save Tok Pisin’ (getting the knowledge of Tok Pisin). I studied with an MAF couple who were also new to PNG and we had many laughs together. The course finished with two weeks in an outstation where we had to speak Tok Pisin most of the time. A real test of how much we had learnt!

On my return from the outstation, my new life began in earnest. Now, I spend three days a week in the office working on my regional responsibilities. These include English Language Co-ordinator for an MAF project, researching and developing education support information for MAF’s Asia-Pacific programmes, and keeping in touch with families in Arnhem Land, Timor-Leste and Bangladesh.

My other two days consist of PNG-based work including regular contact with families. I homeschool some children while developing a library containing fiction, non-fiction and education resources.

Every few months, I visit an outstation and work with children on ways in which they can connect socially — such as children’s camps.

I’m really enjoying being part of the MAF family and knowing that I am serving the bigger picture of reaching the isolated by supporting our families in their frontline work.

Please pray for Jo as she settles into her new life in PNG and for her continuing good health. Pray that she has flourishing relationships with her MAF family and with the local people she encounters, especially her garden and market meri (lady), Tapori. Pray for wisdom in balancing Jo’s regional responsibilities with her PNG ones and for the growth of her English Language Learning project.
Passionate about MAF

Alan Devereux joined MAF in 2004 and was a key player in shaping our future

Prior to MAF, Alan’s successful career in business included heading the Scottish Tourist Board and Scottish Ambulance Service, for which he was awarded a CBE.

However, it would be fair to say that MAF captured Alan’s heart and that he regarded his contribution to the organisation as his greatest honour and achievement. He said that MAF provided the perfect combination of his three abiding passions — engineering, mission and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Alan joined MAF UK in 2004 at a time of great change, focusing his efforts on developing the Board of Trustees. Always keen to bring people together, a mark of his chairmanship was the gentle encouragement of Trustees, Chief Executive and senior management.

An active chairman, Alan visited staff teams in the programmes to hear first-hand about the MAF ‘experience’. He reached out to MAF groups worldwide to share his vision of integration, becoming one of the architects of MAF International in the process.

Alan’s friendly manner and quiet persistence played a key role in encouraging the MAF family to begin this exciting, new chapter of mission. In 2006, MAF International was formed and he joined the new Board, serving as Chair until 2010.

Active in his local church and devoted to his wife Betty, his family and his dogs, Alan loved MAF and he loved his Lord. As a man who celebrated life and was passionate about the work of MAF, Alan thoughtfully left a gift to MAF in his Will.

This gift is now transforming the lives of men, women and children around the world as our aircraft bring God’s love to isolated people.

We are so thankful to all our supporters who choose to leave a legacy to MAF. To find out more about making a gift to MAF in your Will, please phone our Legacy Manager on 01303 851242 or email miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org