



Easter News 2018

Dear MAF Test

Greetings from waterlogged Nairobi, where the March rains have most definitely arrived! We trust this finds you all well, wherever you are in the world. Here is a brief update on our activities, in order of the altitude at which they occurred.

167ft (Horsham, UK) is where we spent Christmas with the extended Machell family; a great time to relax, eat, play games, and remember what it feels like to be somewhat cold.

239ft (Hadley Wood, UK) is where we enjoyed further Christmas celebrations with the other half of the family, and was much the same as the above. It is also where Jack currently lives, continuing his work at the local Golf Club and progressing with his application for pilot training with British Airways. The latest news is that he has got through to the final interview, and is just waiting to hear when that will be. From here he also made a trip to Sweden in February, cleverly choosing the time that his favourite 'Fat Tuesday buns' were widely available. Unsurprisingly, he came back even more enamoured with the country than he was before.

312ft (Monkton Combe, UK) has been Toby's altitude this term. Having fully recovered from all his breakages last term, he has had a full season on the hockey pitch, playing for the Seconds. He has been mostly busy with studying and completing coursework for his GCSEs; but has also managed to have some fun, including a weekend away with the Christian Union and a trip to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu with the CCF. Over Easter he will attend a revision camp at school, and then stay with friends and family, hopefully mostly buried in his books.





948ft (Kansas City, USA) is where we saw in the New Year, celebrating the wedding of our dear friends John and Brianna, and finding out what it means to be *really* cold. Arriving to the lowest temperatures the region had experienced in over 40 years, we basically spent a week wearing all of our clothes, all of the time. We enjoyed amazing hospitality from John's family, and loved the whole 'American experience'.

We are praising God for so many answered prayers in the last three months; in particular, Toby's full healing, and Jack's progress with his plans for the future. Please continue to pray for all of the boys, especially Jack's upcoming interview, and Toby's exams. We also thank God for the opportunity to see family over Christmas, and to attend the wedding in the States.

5889ft (Nairobi, Kenya) has been the location of normal life for Steve, Katie and Ethan since we got back in January. Ethan has had a great hockey season, and has recently taken up squash, representing Braeburn in 2 tournaments. He has started learning the cajon and recently gave a great performance at the school 'Morning of Music'. We have continued with worship, Eldership and preaching duties at church, and all 3 of us have enjoyed the evenings when we have hosted Youth Group at our house, marvelling at the speed with which teenagers can consume food.

10000ft (the skies over Kenya) is the average flight altitude of our MAF planes. Managing the programme has continued to keep Steve busy, not just with the business of flying, but with continued issues over the new compound purchase. On a personal level, this season has also been challenging for our team; a few weeks ago, our colleagues and neighbours Daniel and Damaris lost their 7 year-old daughter. Samara was born with many health challenges but had survived numerous operations and had overcome lots of obstacles in her short life. She had been unwell for a few weeks but her passing was nonetheless sudden and a shock to us all.



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Please pray for our team here in Nairobi, as we mourn alongside our colleagues, and especially for Daniel and Damaris and their younger children, Joshua and Aliza. Please also continue to lift up the ongoing issues with the compound sale. Give thanks with us for the increased use of the plane in Marsabit, and pray for many more flights in the coming months.

16354ft (Point Lenana, Kenya) is the highest peak that can be reached on Mt Kenya without specialist climbing equipment, and was achieved by Steve and Katie, along with group of friends from church, on Feb 20th. Literally, a high point of the last few months.

?ft (Next Stop) And one final thing: we've been talking to our leadership for some time about future plans, and are now in a position to share with you that we'll be taking on a new role with MAF from mid-year 2018. Having led the team in Kenya for three years now, and seen several key projects to completion which have reshaped the work in Kenya, we now feel the time is right for Steve to get back to flying, and to exercise his strategy/development muscles in a new context. Initially we looked at moving directly to another MAF programme, however in consultation with our leadership it's been agreed that we will spend a year in Bath, UK, working on various projects for MAF, and settling Ethan into Monkton Combe school, initially as a day-pupil. In this way we will be well placed to move overseas again with MAF in 2019. We don't yet know where, or exactly when, but we are excited about all the possibilities, and will let you know when we do!

We would value your prayers for all that leaving Kenya entails; for all the logistical issues of moving across the world, as well as all the emotional upheaval that farewells bring. Please pray that we will finish well.

Many thanks as always for all your continued support, love and prayers for our family, and a happy Easter to you all,

Steve, Katie, Jack, Toby and Ethan Machell