



Summer News 2018

Dear MAF Test



Greetings to you for the last time from Nairobi, because unlike the England team, it *is* time for us to head home. Here's a final roundup of our news.

"They're the second best team in the world, and there's no higher praise than that." (Kevin Keegan)



Actually, MAF Kenya is the first best team in the world, and we feel very privileged to have served alongside our colleagues here for the last six years. Together we have persevered through many challenges, and we have celebrated many achievements. We are grateful for the opportunities we have had to develop professionally, with Steve moving into management and Katie into communications. Although it has not all been plain sailing, it has been satisfying to see the work in Marsabit get started, and to oversee significant growth of the maintenance department. We look forward to seeing how the ministry of MAF Kenya will continue to develop in the future.

"Well Clive, it's all about the two m's - movement and repositioning." (Ron Atkinson)



Yes, the story of the compound sale goes on! We are still awaiting conclusion to the legal side of things, but the building of the new houses has started. As anticipated when this project began, nothing is straightforward, however it is very wearing for the team to have so much uncertainty about the move. We trust that everything will be in place soon.



Please continue to pray for the work of MAF Kenya, especially over the next few months while many staff are on Home Assignment. Give thanks for Andy Stratton, who will be interim Country Director for two months, please pray that he will get up to speed quickly and not feel overwhelmed. Please pray for the compound move, that we will be known for honesty and transparency in all our dealings, and that admin and legal processes would proceed swiftly and smoothly.

"Well, I can play in the centre, on the right, and occasionally on the left." (David Beckham)

Like our hero, all three boys have continued to prove themselves versatile and adaptable in these final months of our time in Kenya.

Jack is about to finish working at the Golf Club, and will join us for our last ten days in the country. This means we will be able to make our final departure all together as a family, which feels like a good way to finish. For those keeping up with the saga of Jack's future plans, as yet we have no more news from BA so he may well be heading to Durham in October. We will keep you posted!

Toby got through his exams in one piece, survived a post GCSE party in a field (unlike his phone, which spent the night in a puddle of water in his tent) and then came to Nairobi to forget about school and have a rest. However as soon as he arrived his old PE teacher recruited him to spend two weeks assisting in the Games department at Braeburn. As Toby is interested in a career in sports teaching/coaching, this has been great. He is looking forward to more time in bed once term finishes.

Ethan has been flat out in the classroom, the music room, and on the rugby pitch. He took on a new position as fly half for the U13 A's, and has worked really hard on his kicking. The season finished with a 7's tournament, in which Braeburn came 5th out of 10 teams, and Ethan achieved a 100% conversion rate.



He is experiencing mixed feelings about leaving Kenya, but has enjoyed the end of year celebrations at school this week, including an assembly and a leavers' dance.

We praise God that the boys are all doing well. Please pray for them in this time of transition; we are thankful that we can all be together, but we need patience and grace as we all deal with our sadness differently.



"I'm going to make a prediction - it could go either way." (Ron Atkinson)

Although we are certain we will be based in England for the next 12 months, our plans after that are unknown. We will remain with MAF, and there are some possibilities on the horizon, but we don't expect anything to be fixed until next year. Although uncertainty can be a little bit challenging, it is also very exciting to think that we could go anywhere! Again, we will keep you posted.



"That was the past - we're in the future now." (David Beckham)

As we anticipated, packing up and saying goodbye is a difficult and emotionally draining process. Over Easter, we had the chance to visit the village and school where Katie did her gap year in 1990-91. It was a fantastic experience. Steve sang his last concert with the Greenwood Singers in May. This past weekend we had our farewell BBQ with the International staff, hosted a goodbye party for as many friends as we could fit onto the compound, and Katie had a final breakfast with the MAF ladies. In the coming days, the packers will take away the freight, the car will be sold, and we will have our last Sunday at LVC, which has been our church community and a huge part of our lives since it started 4 years ago. There have already been tears, and no doubt there will be many more, but we leave with a sense of gratitude for all that we have experienced, and great excitement for all that lies ahead.





For more information how to support us please contact:-

Adam Pope
MAF UK
Castle House
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 2TQ.

Tel: 01303 850950

e-mail:
adam.pope@maf-uk.org

web: www.maf-uk.org

Please pray that we will continue to trust God for all the details of the coming year, for a house to live in and a community to be part of. Give thanks with us for his amazing faithfulness, protection and blessings during our time in Kenya.

Thank-you for sharing this part of our journey with us, we couldn't have done it without you! We look forward to seeing all of you (if possible!) during the coming year; once we have a permanent address we would love to welcome you. In the meantime, our emails remain the same.

Steve, Katie, Jack, Toby and Ethan Machell

"If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again."

(Terry Venables)