



Mumfords Letter from Liberia

February 2021

This letter is to update you on our ongoing plans to move on from Liberia and leave MAF in the next couple of months. We are still in Liberia but preparing to return back to Scotland at the end of March — to our home that we left in summer 2012. We left with two children, Zack aged 4 and Esther aged 2, but we return with three much older children.....Zack is now 13, Esther 10 and Jacob 5.

In September 2012 we headed to France for a term of language learning before moving to Chad in January 2013. We departed for Chad mindful of the following verse from Jeremiah 29:11 which says, *For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future.'* We also take the verse with us as we move home, not quite knowing what lies ahead of us in this transition. We could never have imagined the many blessings that God has given us serving with MAF in Chad and then from August 2018 in Liberia. He has certainly remained faithful through both good times and challenging times. We have been blessed to see different cultures, meet so many different people, and of course serve with MAF the isolated communities by helping other missions and partners in their work through MAF flights. It is not easy to leave the amazing ministry of MAF and return to Scotland, but we feel the time has come to return and for the children to be able to transition to the British education system.

For me (Andrew), our time with MAF has been a period with so much variety in my flying in Chad and Liberia. I have flown church leaders, tourists, explorers, government ministers, missionaries, army generals, professors, linguists, conservationists, my own family members, nuns, doctors, priests, sick patients, engineers, bank staff and a chimpanzee. I have flown in perfect weather and bad and everything in between: dodging thunderstorms, harmattan dust, clear blue skies with amazing visibility, turbulence, low cloud and rain. I have flown over volcanoes, coastlines, lakes, savannah, mountains, rainforest, beaches and unending miles of desert. I have flown to runways ranging from major international airports to bush airstrips where we have to buzz the runway to clear baboons or wait for elephants or giraffes to move before we can take off or land. Throughout all this flying it has been a privilege to serve God through my calling serving as a pilot with MAF.

Dust cloud in Chad formed by a thunderstorm



Aerial view of Harper, south-east Liberia



Monrovia, Liberia's capital city



On the ground in Fada, north-east Chad



Enjoying a beach picnic close to our home



I (Hannah) have many wonderful memories of my time in Africa and have learnt so much. Much of my time has been spent looking after the children but I have also been able to participate in ladies' Bible studies in Chad and Liberia where I met weekly with some amazing ladies, learning about their work and time in the city or the villages, reading the Bible and praying together. I helped at the school the children attended in Chad, and in Liberia I started a baby toddler morning at our house. Being a part of two different small MAF programmes meant I have been involved in providing hospitality and welcoming many visitors to the programmes. It has been great to get to know new cultures and taking walks along the beach in Liberia.



The children wanted to thank you, our supporters, and had the following to say:

Zack: I want to say thank you to our supporters for letting me go to two new cultures. I got to meet other missionary kids and befriend them. I also was able to go on safari in a MAF plane flown by Dad and visit a small remote village and stay with missionaries, also in the plane Dad flew. Thank you for the experience that most kids don't get to have and thank you for making it possible for Dad to make a difference in these countries where he could save people that were really sick and transport other missionaries to get to remote places where they wouldn't have been able to go and help people if they couldn't fly.

Esther: I want to say a special thanks to our supporters for allowing us to live in different countries. I really enjoy the Liberian food. In Chad I loved the horse farm and I am very happy that I could live in these places. Thank you.

Jacob: I like living in Liberia so I can go for frozen yogurt and ride on a keh-keh (rickshaw).



Middle: Jacob in a keh-keh
Left: Esther enjoying Liberian food
Right: Zack enjoying a flight to a village in SW Chad

To see a compilation of our favourite photos over our time with MAF, please go to this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR1IXEuAe7o&feature=youtu.be>

We thank you for all your support over the past nine years, whether that has been through prayer, financially, practically, through your friendship (or a combination of some or all of these). We know that without special people like you it would have been impossible for us to serve with MAF. Thank you.

From Andrew, Hannah, Zack, Esther & Jacob.

If you are one of our generous financial supporters we would ask you to continue to give up to and including the **July gift** as this is when our employment with MAF comes to an end and covers our debriefing, repatriation etc. At this point your Direct Debit will cease to collect.

If you give by Standing Order you will need to cancel this with your bank.

Rather than stopping your giving to MAF's work we would be very grateful if you would consider continuing your generous support.

If you would be interested in continuing supporting the work of MAF you can do this through supporting an individual staff member who is underfunded, or the work of MAF in general where your gift can be used where it is most needed.

Please email adam.pope@maf-uk.org or call 01303 812950.

Please stay in touch when we return. Our UK postal address (until we actually arrive back in Aberdeen) remains: 50 Worcester Road, Chichester, PO19 5DZ, UK