



Forsyth Sagas



Hello from Uganda!

Oct 2018

It has been another busy year since our last prayer letter. We have lots to share with you about the MAF programme, The Leadership Team and family news.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of our work here. With everything that is going on it is not easy to find time to keep in touch with everyone but we value your friendship and partnership in God's work. October 1st marked our 25 year anniversary working with MAF. Many of you have been supporting us since we left UK for Tanzania all those year ago. Thank you so much for your faithfulness.

Programme news

MAF Uganda has upgraded its website! We now have one of the most attractive and user friendly sites in MAF. Customers are able to book flights online. There is also plenty of information about the programme, our partners, our aircraft and services. Our resident Communications officer also adds regular stories of how we are helping to meet the needs of those we serve. Visit the site: www.maf-uganda.org



Flight simulator

The "Redbird" Cessna Caravan flight simulator continues to be a great resource for our pilots and for pilots from other programmers converting onto the Cessna Caravan. We have put over 400 hours of flight training on the simulator representing a huge financial saving over flying the aircraft. We are currently completing procedures to submit to the CAA to permit the simulator to be accepted on the Uganda register. This will enable us to offer the device for other operators to use and permit their Caravan pilots to enhance safety through improved training.



Flying For Life

MAF produces a quarterly magazine which many of you may receive. The Spring 2018 issue contained a feature on the work that is being done with South Sudanese refugees in Bidi Bidi.

There are over a million refugees currently living in settlement areas inside the Ugandan border. A large proportion of our flying is to provide easier access to these areas to our partners as they help provide for their basic needs. This includes water and sanitation, schools, health clinics, livelihood training and counseling. Many of the organisations are Christian missions and churches seeking to share God's word and love to these hurting people.

The extra work we have been able to accomplish resulted in the programme celebrating the highest number of flight hours in the first quarter of 2018 and the highest number of passengers in the second quarter, representing over 200 different organisations flown.



Family News

The family celebrated their first Christmas in 17 years back in the UK. It was a busy and joyful time of catching up with family, friends and churches. We also had a nostalgic trip camping out two nights in our Chester house preparing it for sale. The attic contained dozens of boxes carefully packed 25 years ago thinking it might be for half a dozen years. We rescued most of the family photos and a few odds and ends but it's surprising that what we thought were important then hold little value now: although vinyl records are back in fashion!

Jess is just starting her second year of Post-Graduate medicine at Pembroke College, Oxford. At 23, she self-proclaims this year's challenge is to finally accept the slow decline into adulthood. She has just moved out of halls into her first student house. She is so far greatly enjoying the arguments over the washing up and the bins, as well as the daily brawl to be first in line for the shower. Also in the pursuit of adulthood, she has started driving lessons. Having put it off for years in the hope of growing a few more inches to see over the steering wheel, she has decided this isn't feasible and so rubber hits the road regardless. Most lessons she manages to avoid major disasters, but often finds she needs a medicinal (gin and) tonic afterwards, on the doctor's orders (you learn these things in medicine lectures). Having spent a summer of pre-season training that involved chocolate and Netflix, she is looking forward to being on top form as the squash and football season starts up again. She also gets more time in the hospital this year, and she is looking forward to using her stethoscope rather than it being an attractive addition to her mantelpiece.

This year has been both a struggle and an absolute joy for Bekkie. Although her health has been subpar she has found her course fascinating. Her module on African American culture was really enjoyable and her essay earned her a great mark. She continues to be challenged by and having fun with her own art. While back in



Uganda for a few summer weeks she stayed at a bronze foundry in the west of the country at Kasese. Despite coming down with malaria she really enjoyed working with some of the locals and creating some statuettes for casting in bronze. She hopes to return at Christmas to continue the work. She always appreciates prayers for her health and specifically that it would continue to get better and better!



Steve loves working with the team at Kajjansi Airfield keeping the departments running smoothly to enable MAF to serve the isolated people in the region. The first half year was incredibly busy for everyone; flights have been in great demand to help our partners get to East Congo as a result of the displaced communities from the violence in the Ituri region, and up to northern Uganda to assist the refugees from the insecurity in South Sudan.



In April the MAF International Managers Conference was held in Chiang Mai in Thailand, a location fairly central to both the Africa and Asia Pacific programmes. Apart from a good time to catch up with old friends it was a busy time looking at strategic planning towards 2026, reflecting on our leadership and personal strengths, reviewing new policies and enjoying some amazing Thai food!

Steve's 22 year old motorcycle (XR250) changed from a mode of transport to work into a new hobby for 6 months; repairing it. He enjoyed taking the cylinder head off cleaning it all up and replacing the gasket. To his utter amazement there were no left over parts and it started first kick!

Although winds have been light and few good sailing days this year, he had great fun teaching some of the teenagers to sail the Hobbie Cat over a church youth retreat. He also continues to enjoy his dawn runs around our hill and participated with many of the Uganda team in MAF Canada's 8km fun run



THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR LEADERSHIP SUCCESS

As always Philippa is very busy with her consultancy firm, The Leadership Team, in heavy demand for leadership and organisation development services. They have had a major project running with Advance Afrika (www.advanceafrika.org) who are happy for us to share their website so that you can understand their goals and pray for them. Philippa has helped them with a new strategic plan and organisation structure so that they can increase their reach and impact. We feel privileged to contribute to Uganda's development in this way. A highlight, earlier this year, was when Leadership Team was chosen by Mercer, the world's leading HR Consultancy, to represent them in Uganda – this represented a much appreciated vote of confidence in the team's technical and ethical standards. This will also help the team to keep up to date with international best practice so that they can become ever more expert in the support they are providing. Another highlight has been working with a couple of government departments on the regulatory side. Who would have thought that specialising in HR Management would have resulted in such access, and opportunities for providing support where it can have a national level impact?



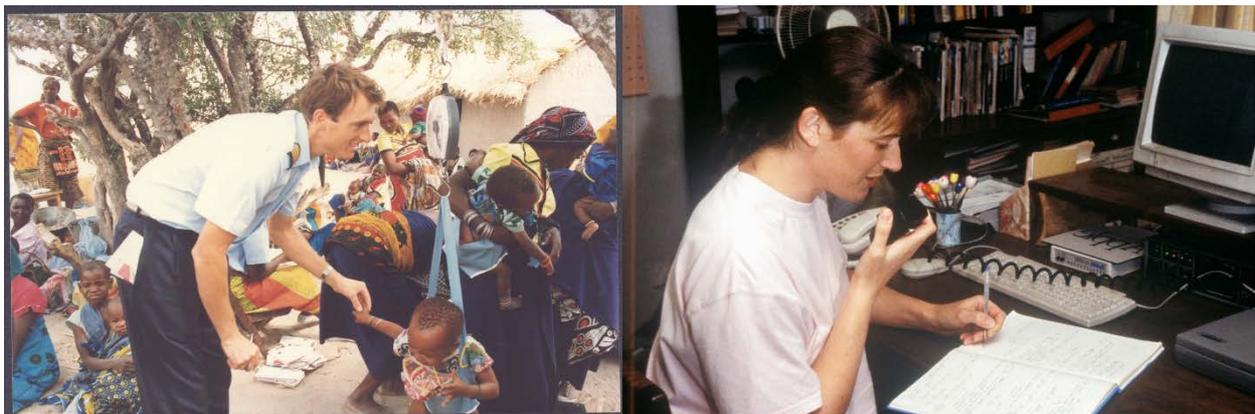
Another exciting involvement is with Financial Sector Deepening, which is the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). Philippa has had a number of quite prosaic HR Management assignments which have resulted in an opportunity to develop a new workshop on Managing Innovation. This is being developed in collaboration with her UK partner, Professor Steve Glowinkowski, who is a renowned occupational psychologist and specialism in the field. The workshop will be trialed towards the end of the year, and if it meets with approval, would be rolled out to the FSD teams across Africa, and potentially more widely in the finance sector in general.

I don't know if people are aware of the crushing problem here in Africa over unemployment. Here in Uganda, 60% of the population are under 24. And 60% of those who are of working age are unemployed. With the birth rate still running at an average of 8 kids per woman, this problem is only going to get worse. Economic growth is nowhere near keeping up. The Leadership Team would like to make a contribution towards economic growth and job creation by supporting organisations to be more effective and enabling them to grow. Please pray for us to find practical ways of making a real difference, and growing our impact. Pray for wisdom for Philippa and her colleague, Caroline, as they lead the team and develop new approaches.

Philippa is also on the leadership team at church and is facilitating a 4 month strategic planning exercise, designed to generate vision, goals and clarity concerning the recruitment of salaried leader. This is a significant responsibility on top of a schedule that was jam packed to start with, so prayers for wisdom in time management and supernatural energy are welcome.

A message from MAF

We would like to congratulate Steve and Philippa as they celebrate 25 years serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
Thank you to all of you who have given financially, prayed and encouraged them throughout this time.



If you would like to support us in prayer or by making a regular financial gift please get in touch with our MAF UK office who will be happy to help.

We really appreciate all who remember us through their prayers and giving.
For more information please contact Adam Pope adam.pope@maf-uk.org 01303 850950
