



## FIONA's NEWS December 2022



"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot extinguish it."  
John 1v5 (NLT)

The wonderful verse at the top of this letter is relevant throughout the year. It was at the heart of MAF's day of prayer in November, it is part of the Gospel reading for Christmas Day, it's a picture for Candlemas in February and it exemplifies our hope as we look out at our troubled world.



At the time of writing MAF pilot, Ryan Koher, remains in detention in a high security prison in Mozambique. He has been in prison since 4<sup>th</sup> November on suspicion of terrorism following the seizure, during a routine airport security scan, of supplies of vitamins and over-the-counter medicines meant for orphanages in the north of the country. Whilst there are various occupational hazards in working for MAF, I think this case is unprecedented. Ryan's work, and MAF's, is to bring help, hope and healing in Christ's name to people in isolated communities so accusations of supporting insurgency could not be further from the truth. If you are into social media, please make use of **#prayerforpilotryan** (photo of Ryan and his wife Annabel by Stuart Boyd)

In South Sudan, the security presence is so great that it is not easy to take photos around Juba. Permits are generally required for pictures in public places.

This shot is taken from the roof of a girls' home in a nearby suburb to where I live. If you are interested in seeing something more of the city you could watch this video:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNSIhIzr3io> There are a further 3 in this series from South Sudan which give an idea of the challenges facing the population both in the capital city and in a Protection of Civilians Camp near Bentiu.

A PoC camp is intended to be a place of safety, with the presence of UN peacekeepers and local security personnel, for people who have fled from their home villages because of violence. Some of those villages have since suffered catastrophic flooding meaning that there are no homes (or even visible land) for people to return regardless of the peace situation.

Mortality rates for children in South Sudan are very poor because of widespread poverty, obviously made much worse by the fighting and flooding. Several of our partners are involved in running mother and baby clinics with a significant number of the children presenting with severe malnutrition. It is a life-threatening condition but can be treated effectively with a couple of sachets of Plumpy Nut a day for 6-8 weeks. This ready-to-use therapeutic food containing peanuts, milk powder, sugar, vitamins and minerals is one of the cargoes we may be chartered to fly. (Photo: Leanne Cadd)



The MAF South Sudan programme as a whole is supporting our partners in the myriad ways in which they are bringing help to isolated people – providing clean water, measles vaccinations, training for peace & reconciliation, seeds, Bibles, school supplies, healthworkers, sharing the good news, giving sight to the blind. Behind the scenes, finance is working on the implementation of new accounting software for “going live” at the start of January. We have all had basic training on the main aspects and I hope that will be sufficient for most of the day-to-day work of my accounts team in Juba. I am not yet comfortable with the new software – there are still too many aspects that I feel I don’t understand well enough – and I think January and February will be very challenging as we try to complete year end work, deal with teething issues in the new system and keep on top of daily tasks particularly sales invoicing and collecting payments for flights. Plenty to pray about!



Taking a few of the finished articles to share with some stallholders near our compound was a simple and joyful way to make connections and share the gospel message.

At our prayer day we made Christingles, to help us **focus on God’s goodness to us and the amazing love that Jesus, the Light of the World, has for us.** There were enough oranges left at the end for some of the girls on the compound to make them too. (Photo right: Karyn Ball.)



I had a very helpful few days “Finding Stillness” at Worth Abbey in early December. The rest and soul-refreshment set me up for a period of working from the UK whilst also covering staff on leave in Juba. I’ll be back in S Sudan from 3<sup>rd</sup> January with team back to full strength on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support for me and MAF in South Sudan. They are so essential for enabling me to do my work! May God bless you this Christmas and throughout 2023.

- Thank God for Jesus, the Light of the world that can never be extinguished. Pray for the light of Christ to reach all parts of the world. Pray about your part in spreading Christ’s light to those who need it. (*Prayer pointers from using Christingles at our prayer day*)
- Please pray for Ryan: for his release, for the case to be dismissed and for God to be glorified as more people within Mozambique and around the world learn about His love and MAF’s work through Ryan’s story. Pray too for Ryan’s wife Annabel and their two young sons during this period of separation and for the 2 elderly South Africans who were detained along with Ryan having brought in the supplies for the orphanages.
- Pray for the many young children in South Sudan facing severe malnutrition as a result of conflict, flooding, drought or poverty and for the various Christian and humanitarian organisations trying to support them (eg Tearfund and UNICEF).
- Please pray for my physical health and stamina in dealing with the implementation of the new software, and also for spiritual health ensuring time for stillness in the presence of the Lord.

Please let me or MAF know if you no longer want to receive this prayer letter or would like it in a different format (post or email) and let us know if you would also like to receive the briefer prayer letter without pictures that I send in the interim months.

Contact details for MAF UK are: **W** [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org) **E** [staffsupport@maf-uk.org](mailto:staffsupport@maf-uk.org) **T** 01303 852 819 or post Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TQ

For MAF Australia: **W** [www.maf.org.au](http://www.maf.org.au) **E** [maf@maf.org.au](mailto:maf@maf.org.au) **T** +61 2 8014-6450