

## HAPPY EASTER FROM THE LINKLETERS

**Dear friends, happy Easter from Uganda,**

As we approach Easter we think about the violence and suffering we see in so many countries around us: The horror in Gaza, War in Ukraine, fighting and famine in Sudan, militia's in Eastern Congo, instability in South Sudan : And we are thankful for the hope that Easter brings us.

Meanwhile in Uganda we were delighted to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our local Church. At the time we joined, nine years ago, we didn't realise what a new venture it was or how much of a part it would come to play in our lives. We celebrated with worship, cake and a reminder of the the small local missions which the Church has contributed to, from working with street kids and orphans, through support for older people to to training a resources for pastors, it is exciting seeing the community reach out to its own people.

You would think it a simple issue when we get a message from MAF in the UK asking for a new photo for their display in the office..... can't do it today, its pouring with rain, can't do it today, it's too sunny and everyone is squinting, oopes the weather was perfect and we forgot..... finally after 24 attempts, we ended up with the result below hmmmmm...



Several years ago Celia began a Bible study fairly early in the morning for the house ladies who help in people's homes. This was quite strictly ladies only for quite a while until one incredibly wet morning one of the gardeners took refuge from the weather with us, and kept coming back. Until recently it was only me (Celia) leading it, but then, from about last November, I had to miss several meetings due to trips to the orthodontist. One of the guys bravely put himself forward to learn how to lead a small group and has done so several times now. In a couple of weeks another guy will have his first go leading. So pray for these young men as they try and navigate the Bible passages in a language not their own (there are several different first languages among the group) and pray that when we come to leave that there will be people ready and able to carry on



Bible Study Ladies



10th Birthday Cake

Shortly after Christmas we had a lot of entertainment with a visit from Geoff's brother with his wife and a couple of friends. They spent a few days in Kampala with us, squeezed in sampling a MAF flight which crossed the Nile and Lake Albert where they also managed to go on a safari trip. They were excited to see lions and giraffes and even managed to see a white rhino, which we have never done. We took delight in introducing them to Ugandan food (Posho...hmmm!, Rolex...yummy!), showing them the chaotic Kampala traffic with the Boda-boda motorcycles carrying everything from a rider and four children on their way to school, to a coffin and the famous fruit and veg market.

The Grade 11 students (year 12) at Mim's school are traditionally tasked with organising a "spring" dance for the highschoolers. It was left to their own choice as to whether it was going to be a formal prom or something different. Mim and her class mates decided on something a bit more relaxed and much effort was put into organising the event, with food, games and music. The outdoor dining hall was beautifully decorated and all the girls and guys turned out smart in a wide range of different styles, but we have been informed in no uncertain terms that publishing of photos is forbidden! We do know that Mim's main contribution was in helping her team to win the trivia quiz.

Easter Blessings, Love Geoff, Celia & Mim



We've never seen one



Visiting the taxi park with Geoff's brother



Every Village Water Pump



Flying In South Sudan

### News from MAF

From time to time we try to include in these newsletters a little update on which partners MAF Uganda has been flying for and what work they are involved in. At the end of the day, while flying is exciting (according to Geoff) the real reason we are here is to facilitate the work of other organisations sharing God's love and and the good news with people in hard to access places.

Geoff is always excited when MAF flies for the Texas based organisation, Every Village, because he knows first hand some of the people whose lives have been changed by them especially through the building and maintaining of water pumps in Western Equitoria, the most South-Western state in the country. The goal of Every Village's work is to establish sustainable access to safe water, to healthy churches, and to the gospel by radio. They do this by partnering with the South Sudanese to build the infrastructure, the systems, and the leadership necessary for a thriving and peaceful nation

Another exciting but counter intuitive thing is that MAF now fly for this group much less than when we first came to Uganda. This is thanks to the successful empowering of local staff to carry out much of their work so that only support and training need to be flown in from outside.



Papers, papers,papers.....!



Maule M5

### News from the Hangar

In addition to his normal work for MAF Uganda, in the past few months Geoff has continued in his additional role of supporting the engineering work in the MAF Chad programme. Having made steps forward in helping them update the control of their stock of aircraft spare parts he has moved on to helping and training them with some of their maintenance documentation. He claims to be going cross eyed trying to cross reference maintenance manuals, inspection sheets and approved maintenance programmes, some of which are (supposed to be) in French. The aircraft belongs to the Mission Organisation Pursuit 53 who disciple local Church leaders in South Sudan. They plan to use it to access to some small villages which are a challenge even for MAF.

An interesting short term visitor to the MAF Hangar is a Maule M5 short take off and landing (STOL) aircraft which is borrowing some space for maintenance work. This is an unconventional, old fashioned looking design with a fuselage manufactured from steel tubes covered in plastic film giving a a strong and light structure. The Ugandan engineers look on it in surprise as this is how aircraft were often constructed before WW2. It can take off and land at low speeds in very small spaces, but its normal cruise speed is similarly slow.

Another little job we have been working on in the hangar is the replacement of all the recognition lights on the Cessna Caravan aircraft. These lamp units incorporate a flasher device which uses some electronics now out of manufacture and so they cannot be repaired or replaced. A generous donor provided money to upgrade the lights to modern LED type. Each of the trainee engineers in the hangar was assigned an aircraft to modify and helped to understand the changes necessary to the wiring and how to connect the new units. These lights are always tested by the pilots as part of the pre-flight procedure, so hopefully we will no longer get that call that the aircraft is departing in a few minutes and a bulb needs to be changed.



Light replacement in progress



Installed

### **Please pray for**

Pray for the MAF programme in Papua New Guinea, the only fuel supplier has gone bankrupt and no fuel is available in country.

Pray for MAF Chad who are struggling to recruit new staff because of the remoteness of their operation and challenges with available schooling.

Pray for our MAF friends Ruth and Larry Nicholson. Larry has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and has returned to Canada for an operation. Pray especially that he might be able to slot back into the Canadian health service without delays.

Pray for Mim's school as they raise funds and begin work on their new campus. Pray especially for favor with the local authorities who are sometimes inconsistent to work with.

Pray for MAF's Mission Partners, Evey Village and Pursuit 53.

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