

Riveted Together

New Year 2023

Happy New Year

“Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things;....The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations...All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God” Psalm 98:1-3

We pray each of you have been able to celebrate the birth of our saviour in some special way with family or friends this Christmas season. Just prior to Christmas we drove across to Uganda (13 hours each way) to visit familiar places and friends we had not seen in 7 years! There were some special reunions and fun times of fellowship with our former staff and friends. We timed our trip perfectly to be present for Kampala Baptist Church Christmas Cantata...it felt like being 'home' again for Mark & I.

For Abby, who has no memory of life in Uganda it was a chance to get to know places and people we all talk about, and for Amy and Josh the chance to see some 'old' school friends.



We had a quiet Christmas at home as a family.

We enjoyed a lovely day with a traditional Christmas dinner, games and chats with family online.



Life in the Newnham Home

The last few months seem to have flown by.

The demands of work life keep **Mark** busy. He travelled to Chad for two weeks in September to carry out maintenance on the aircraft there. We continue to pray for a permanent Chief Engineer for the Chad programme.

At the end of November he travelled up to Juba, S Sudan to disassemble a damaged propeller and have meetings with various staff there. We do now have an aircraft engineer permanently based in Juba which makes it a lot simpler to troubleshoot problems and keep the aircraft maintained.

Abby was actually able to join Mark on his trip to Juba. The plan was for her to experience the day to day life of her friends in our South Sudan team, go to Juba Christian Academy with them, and live on the Juba MAF Compound. Unfortunately, the day after flying up on the MAF shuttle she developed a fever which persisted for the whole week and put a damper on the whole trip....We are thankful she did not get really sick and for wonderful colleagues who looked after her so Mark could still get his work done.

Abby says " The trip was Ok but next time Mummy has to come"...

The first photo below, of Abby and her friend Addy, is a reminder to me of the wonderful experiences our children get to have as they see the world and witness the difference a MAF plane makes in hard to reach places.



Image 1. Abby & Addy waiting in Lockichogio, Kenya as they switch from one plane to another

Image 2. Abby & her little friend Jacob, who lived on our compound for a year whilst preparing to join the S Sudan team

Image 3. Mark working on the Prop

Image 4: Abby playing games with her friends in Juba

Image 5: A little walk up the hill behind the S Sudan MAF compound

Amy has settled well into studying for A levels. She is studying English Lit, Biology and Psychology. She recently had the opportunity to go to the Kenyan coast for an A-level biology trip. She very much enjoyed the trip on which she spent time researching in the mangrove swamps, snorkelling and released a sea turtle. However, she is no more enthusiastic about catching crabs now than she was beforehand! (Amy is pictured front left of both pictures below)



Josh and Sarah have not been on such exciting adventures as the rest of the family but have kept busy enough.

Sarah has kept busy with her Speech Therapy at Heshima and with supporting the new Kids Church worker as she settles into her role at church.

Josh is in his final year of GCSE's and has his mock exams right after the Christmas break.

He dreams of getting involved in conservation work so we look forward to seeing how the Lord opens up doors for him.

Seasons

I really miss the changing of the seasons, particularly Autumn and Spring. Abby has been disappointed this year seeing all your pictures of snow...something she has never experienced.

It has also been a season of change in our MAF Kenya team. Over these 7 months, our team of five international families has said good bye to three families (Roths, Cuthels and Johnstones). It's felt like autumn and winter...a season of change and grief. Walking by empty houses, remembering friends that once lived there. This means that for a couple of weeks The Lowen-Rudgers Family (pictured below) and ourselves made up the Kenya International Team.

Of course the end of something leaves space for new beginnings.

MAF has now appointed its first Kenyan Country Director. Faith Susan has been with MAF since 2004 and will join us as our new neighbour on the compound along with her husband Kolum and daughters, Emma & Joy. Shortly, we shall also welcome the Alderblad family from Sweden. Ulrik & Paula will be coming with their youngest two daughters, Svea & Lilly. Paula will be involved in regional Communications.

We are thankful for new friendships and new colleagues and looking forward to the changes 2023 will bring.



Praises

For the opportunity to visit Uganda and catch-up with old staff and friends there and for safe travels on the road

- For a relaxing family Christmas together.
- Mark has received an invitation letter for the next exam for his Kenyan Engineers Licence
- Sarah is thankful for Redempta who has taken over the leadership of the Kids Church Ministry at our church, although Sarah still enjoys being involved
- For the new families joining our team and taking up new roles

Prayers

- Keep praying for ongoing staffing needs within MAF. In particular pray for a permanent Chief Engineer for the Chad programme...a role that Mark is currently doing on top of his Area Head of Maintenance Role.
- The Kenya programme also urgently needs a new pilot
- Pray for Josh and he does his mock GCSE' and Amy as she prepares for mock AS Level exams this month
- Pray for Mark as he studies for and takes his next exam for his Kenyan Engineers licence.
- Continue to pray for those in Kenya suffering due to drought, late rains and high cost of essentials