

Riveted Together

Spring 2022

The Adventures of An Aircraft Engineer



The beginning of 2022 has flown by. Life in the Newnham home has been busy but fruitful. We want to share some of the joys and challenges of the last few months with you and also take a moment to wish you a very Happy Easter. May you know his power afresh in your life as you celebrate that Christ is Risen!

Mark's life is never dull, with an unexpected problem to fix occurring fairly often.

He continues to be Chief Engineer for Chad programme while MAF searches for someone to fill the position.

This consumes quite a lot of time and juggling this with his role as Area Head of maintenance can be challenging.

In January, Mark travelled with Vincent, a Kenyan engineer to Chad for three weeks to carry out maintenance on both aircraft. (He timed his trip well - whilst he was away the rest of us were isolating as both Abby and then Josh got Covid - thankfully very mild cases.)



Several of you have asked if there has been any progress on Mark obtaining his Kenyan Engineers licence. Sadly, the short answer is 'not much'. Mark has now passed all 6 exams that were on the computer. However, he is still waiting for results to essay questions he wrote a year ago. He needs to pass everything to be able to convert his licence.

Mark recently had his official interview with the Kenyan CAA for his role here. While the interview went well the CAA are insisting that Mark has a Kenyan licence before he officially holds the title. It is frustrating...please keep praying that this process would move forward.

Keeping up with the Kids

Those that see us later this year will notice that Mark & I have become considerably greyer. It may be age, but I think it's all the running around we do after the children. Between, school and friends, youth group and sports activities we are certainly not bored.

Abby

is doing amazingly well at school, both academically and in other areas too. She has been super busy practicing for and playing on the U9 girls hockey team this term. She also attended her first swimming gala, and although nervous swam really well in her favourite strokes; back stroke and breast stroke. Next term she will be on the girls cross country team!

In the class room she continues to enjoy Maths and art /DT subjects. She won a prize for her recent Maths project and won Overall Achievement Award in her class this term. We are making steady progress with piano lessons and have had lots of fun creating things in pottery club (mummy just needs find somewhere to display it all!). One can't ever have enough arts and craft supplies when Abby is around....Like me, it's her way of relaxing.



Josh turned 15 in March and continues to soar above us. He last measured in at 6ft 2in but looking at his trousers swinging round his ankles, he has not stopped yet!

We are proud of the confident and caring young man he is becoming. He enjoys school for the most part....the practical subjects at least and we are thankful for good teaching staff at school.

Josh has always had an interest in aviation but since moving to Kenya he's developed a keen interest in wildlife and discovered he has a natural eye for photography. For his Birthday we were able to acquire a camera for him which he now enjoys experimenting with. This picture is one he took recently.

Amy

has worked really hard to strengthen her knee and was thrilled to be done with weekly physiotherapy sessions recently. She has just begun running and been able to participate in sports at school again which is a huge answer to prayer.

Amy is in the middle of revising for her IGCSE's. She is now officially on study leave, with exams starting on 4th May and going through to early June. Please pray for her...it's not been the easiest ride with moving school and Covid making the road even harder (online school etc). She hopes to continue on and do A-levels in English, Drama and Psychology.

Shifting Gears with Sarah

Indeed, life has been incredibly busy these past few months. I continue to enjoy volunteering at Heshima each week. Maureen & I have been busy creating picture timetables and communication aids this term. I was able to rejoice with her as she recently passed her level 3 sign language course.

My role at Renewal as Kids Church coordinator has maybe taken more time than I had expected, but I love planning the lessons, leading the team of volunteers and teaching the kids. We regularly get 80 children between the ages of 2 and 12.

My biggest challenge is recruiting enough volunteers! Last Sunday we had a wonderful time praising Jesus, King of Kings as we celebrated the Palm Sunday story.

I am trying to make enough space each week to enjoy those things that refresh and rejuvenate me...gardening, crafts and I'm so thankful for the support of my MAF 'sisters'. I look forward to our Friday mornings when we share and pray for one another.



A recent picture I made with items I collected in Liberia & Kenya



Praises

- For Mark successfully passing the final computer exam for his licence last December.
- For the improvement Amy has seen in her knee and the joy of being able to participate in sports again
- For his successful trip to Chad in January. Despite challenges with parts arriving late and the family having Covid at home, he and Vincent were able to get everything done and remained healthy themselves.
- For the opportunities Sarah currently has to use her skills both at Heshima and at our church.
- For the increase in flights MAF is experiencing, the organisations we can support and for the safety of the aircraft in the air each day.

Prayers

- Please continue to pray that Marks exam results would be released soon or that God would open up a new door for him to be able to obtain his Kenyan licence.
 - Pray for Amy as she studies for and sits her GCSE exams in the next month.
 - Pray for wisdom as Mark juggles the needs and priorities of several MAF Programmes. Especially pray for discernment in making maintenance decisions from afar.
 - For Sarah to be fruitful in her various areas of ministry and to find the right balance between family demands and voluntary roles.
 - Mark will be travelling to S Sudan and Uganda in the coming weeks. Pray for smooth travels, good meetings and an easy process in renewing his Ugandan Licence.
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Look Out ! **Newnhams will be back in the UK this summer.**

We are very excited to be returning in July and August for some much needed time with supporters and family. Below are dates for some events you would be welcome to attend. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

3rd July - am service **Gillingham Baptist , Kent**

10th July - am services **St Johns, Beckenham, Kent**

17th July - Coffee & Chat **Headcorn Baptist, Kent**

30th July -5th Aug - we will be at **Keswick Convention** (if you also plan to be there and we could meet for a cuppa)

Date TBC (7-14th Aug) - Host a meeting in **Capernwray, Lancashire area**

