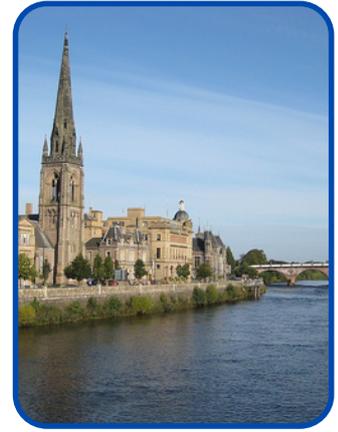




My train home from the assessment was cancelled so had a look around Glasgow



After several attempts, we finally got a picture with everyone smiling and looking in the right direction! Athena (left), Astrid (right), Annie (middle)



Perth, Scotland

First steps...

Life certainly has been very different to the norm these past few weeks! Since passing the final practical assessments in Perth, Scotland, my usual quiet work routine has been uprooted as I reach out to friends old and new, asking them to partner with us on what God has called us to do. It's been incredibly encouraging to have your support as we start out this new chapter. To know our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for us, cheering us onwards, and even blessing us with their sacrificial giving is both deeply humbling and profoundly motivating.

Being in Perth for my technical assessment (more on that later!) was a great opportunity to see where we'll be living for the next 2 years, and was my first visit to Scotland. The kids also tasked me with spying out the land, reporting back on the most important facility in our future hometown: the local swimming pool. The kids were very pleased with Perth Leisure Pool's flumes.

Getting the kids excited about the move has been it's own challenge, especially with our beloved tabby cat (Chewy) having to find a new home (Thank you Grandpa!), but small wins like a flume or a nice looking park can make all the difference to them. Decluttering toys and other belongings is a major undertaking, but I feel we won't miss most of it.

CHRIS

Thank you!

Thanks to your generous gifts, we have reached 23% funding so far!

Regular gifts enable us to keep going even when we are out of sight in the coming years.

We are still a long way from our target, please prayerfully consider if you or any of your connections would support us financially.

What we're up to

We are in Romney Marsh, Kent until Spring 2023. We'll be moving to Perth, Scotland where Chris will start his training as an aircraft engineer in preparation for working at MAF.

I (Chris) recently passed my technical assessments in Perth which was a very busy, but fun couple of days. Getting stuck in by inspecting a helicopter, servicing an engine, and metalworking were my favourite parts! Train strikes caused some delays, but I enjoyed exploring Glasgow briefly whilst waiting for the next one! It was great to meet some of others who are already on or applying to be on the training scheme. Who knows, I might even end up working alongside one of them when we go overseas!

Most of my time is spent gathering support & preparing the house to be rented out in our absence. Kathleen is focused on the girl's education at home - something that will remain constant despite the upheaval to come!



Astrid says:

I'm excited for a new adventure in Scotland and new places to explore! We watched a video about Perth and I really liked the countryside.

Praise God for

- Great start to our support network
- His amazing provision

Please pray for

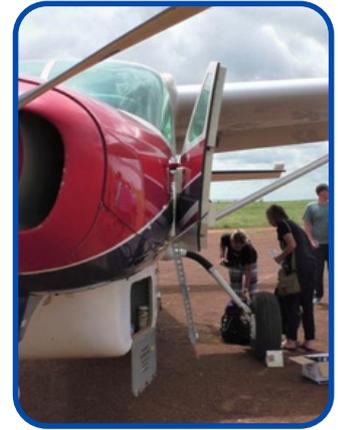
- Kathleen and the kids as they continue home educating
- The Team in MAF Uganda, safety from recent ebola outbreak, and the impact they have there
- Moving preparations
- Additional supporters & prayer partners
- The right church in Perth for the whole family
- The right house/flat in Perth



Air service training - est 1931



Air Service training, where Chris will be learning



MAF Uganda est 1986
One of 6 aircraft we operate from here

When we get to Perth, I'll be back in full-time learning for 20 months at Air Service Training. Part of the course is taught in the Perth College campus, and part of it in the hangar.

The course is 40% practical, and 60% classroom work. It's been a while since I've been in a classroom, I wonder how old I'll feel at age 30 working alongside the other college students...

Moving away from our current network means Kathleen will need to find new places, groups, and activities for the children to settle into. We've already spied the land ahead online as much as possible, but helping the kids settle in and adjust, whilst continuing their education will be her most pressing priority.

Finding the right church from afar is difficult! We have some connections through MAF in Perth, so we are trying to find out some information about churches before we arrive.

What next?

After Perth, we'll be relocating again for me to get my 2 years practical experience. We are hoping this can be working on MAF aircraft, but currently this is most likely to be with a partner organisation in the UK.

After this, we'll be doing a short bible school course at All Nations, some security training, and then off to service overseas!

This destination will be a mystery for some time. When we are closer to the time, MAF will consider the organisations needs, our circumstances as a family, and suggest one or more options.

Often people ask: where do you want to go? I have been able to visit MAF in Uganda, Kenya, and Madagascar so far in my work with MAF IT over the past few years, but feel open to prayerfully considering anywhere MAF asks.

Anything else to share?

We've set up a facebook page [here](#) where we'll be posting little and often updates. We came up with the name "Walking with the Watkins" for two important reasons: Firstly, because "walking" implies a journey, and we are very much on a journey, following where He leads and taking those first steps - even though at times the to-do list feels insurmountable! Secondly, because I used to love "[Walking with Dinosaurs](#)". That CGI has aged terribly!

If you would like to know more about Mission Aviation Fellowship, sign up for the "Discovery Pass" [here](#) to learn about the global impact, where and how we operate, and why we do what we do!

As a family, we really enjoy doing the MAF Advent calendar each year too, check it out [here](#)!



Spotlight on Uganda

MAF has operated in Uganda since 1986 and works in partnership with national church groups, mission groups, development and relief agencies and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We currently have six aircraft and 67 dedicated personnel serving over 200 organisations with travel, logistical and technical needs.

Uganda is a landlocked country, located in East Africa. It is bordered to the east by Kenya, to the north by South Sudan, to the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the south-west by Rwanda, and to the south by Tanzania, and it includes a significant portion of Lake Victoria. Despite making enormous progress in reducing poverty right across the country, Uganda relies heavily on the support of foreign aid. Along with the needs of the people in Uganda itself, the country currently plays host to more than a million refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, resulting in many people in desperate need.

MAF planes provide timely transport to aid workers who are able to provide assistance to those in need. We also support ministry to local and displaced persons in South Sudan and East DRC.

[We recently even flew Princess Anne!](#)