

FLYING FOR LIFE

OCT-DEC 2022



MAF
Flying for Life

Love with all your heart



As Christians, we firmly believe in the enduring power of God's love – the infinite and unconditional love which only our heavenly Father can give us

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16).

During His ministry on earth, Jesus personified that great love for all mankind, often in the face of strong opposition. It seems paradoxical that a message of love for everyone was the very thing on which He was challenged.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment. His answer summarises all the Law and Prophets that had gone before Him.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

MAF's mission is a living witness to those commandments.

Loving God with all our heart is central to our very existence. It is this transformative Gospel message that takes flight with every MAF take-off. Every journey we make begins with the pilot asking God to bless the people on it.

The MAF family believes we're called by God to love our neighbours in remote communities worldwide. Our unique way of doing so is, of course, through the power of aviation and technology.

So it gives me great pleasure to report on the latest expansion of the MAF mission, with the first flight in MAF Guinea officially launching our newest programme (page 3).

Thank you for showing you love God with all your heart by helping us to reach our most isolated neighbours.

Ruth Whitaker
Chief Executive, MAF UK



Our summer cover illustrates MAF's work in Arnhem Land – see page 10 for more news from that programme

Editor's choice

Each month, we receive dozens of wonderful comments from our supporters, for which we are deeply grateful.

The following was sent in by Gill:

'Thank you so much for the lovely book, Eyes Turned Skyward.

I was also glad that it was sent in recyclable packaging.

Our Methodist and Anglican churches are now Eco Churches, doing what we can to save the planet.'

Please send your comments to editor@maf-uk.org

Richard Chambers
Editor, *Flying for Life*

Praise God for Guinea!

Story Richard Chambers Photos Dave Forney, Stef Gidney and Emil Kündig



On St George's Day 2022, the first MAF operational flight in Guinea took off, with MAF Pilot Roy Rissanen bringing missionaries in a Cessna Caravan from the south-east to the capital Conakry

The young American couple – who need to remain anonymous for security reasons – work for an agricultural organisation and also partner with a Bible translation project.

The inaugural flight saved them two days of gruelling road travel and also transported essential vegetables, buckets, pipes and solar panels for their farming project.

'We've been praying for transportation since we got here over a decade ago,' they said. 'There are no domestic aircraft in Guinea, so we have to drive. We drive and cry!'

'It's dehumanising and demoralising. Driving at night is very dangerous. The potholes on the roads can be eight feet wide, and mountain passes are dangerously narrow. We never take a trip where we don't see an overturned vehicle somewhere along the way.'

'The farm we run in the south is a way for locals to see new ways of doing things. Cashews are going to be the cash crop that people will grow and sell for income.'

'We've also imported tropical fruit trees that aren't currently here, and will be encouraging people to plant them so that they can eat the fruit.'

Most people in the local area barely make enough to eat. Remote communities suffer from a lack of both education and jobs. The majority of people make money by any means necessary just to survive.

MAF flights, however, will eventually provide access to healthcare, schools and a far better future for thousands of people.

The two missionaries are also involved in translating Scripture into a local dialect for an unreached people group of 300,000. When complete, their aim is to distribute God's Word through their network of farmers.

Aside from the UN, MAF is the first non-governmental air operator to fly in Guinea. We've already received many requests to transport church and mission groups, NGOs and relief services to isolated men, women and children.

Roy Rissanen is delighted to be flying in Guinea. He first saw the Cessna Caravan in 1999, when it had just rolled off the production line.

'We will use it to bring help, hope and healing in many ways,' he explains, 'transporting passengers, supplies and – of course – medical patients needing urgent care.'



Please continue to pray for the growth of our MAF Guinea programme

MAIN The Cessna Caravan popularly known as the *Millennium Messenger*
TOP Roy Rissanen (left) flew MAF Guinea's first aircraft when it served in Mongolia

ABOVE 'We drive and cry!'

Together – united – we stand



Photos Nathan Jones

Prayer Communications Leader Rev Victoria Fagg reveals this year's Global Week of Prayer theme – 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5)

As we head towards the end of 2022, I'm conscious that people are hurting and tired and heavy.

We're still recovering from the devastating losses of the coronavirus pandemic and the crushing reality of nations at war. In fact, it seems more and more that division is at play in every realm of life.

The world feels kind of dark right now, doesn't it?

It would be easy to become overwhelmed and almost paralysed by it all. Yet, as followers of Jesus, we are called to stand in the gap and intercede. To speak and be the 'light in dark places' – igniting hope and faith in the One whose light is inextinguishable.

In 1 Timothy 2:1, Paul urges his readers, 'first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.'

You're invited to join us as we pray for God's light to shine across the nations, and that – through the ministry of MAF and the partners we fly – people will come to know His redeeming love for themselves.

That they would become carriers of His light into their villages, cities and beyond.

The enclosed *Special Edition Prayer Diary* will take you on a daily 'Head, Heart and Hands' journey of prayer and reflection from Sunday 30 October to Sunday 6 November.

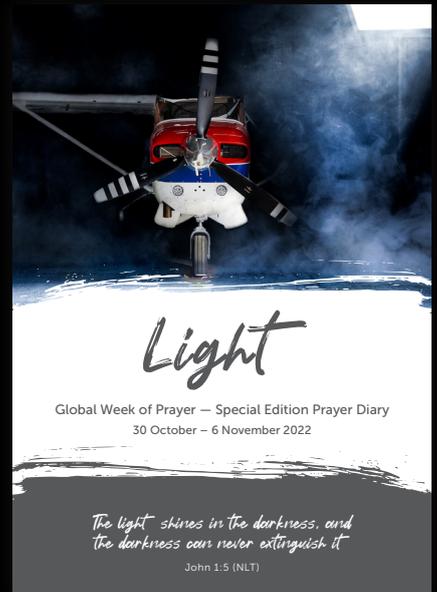
You can request additional copies of the *Prayer Diary* by emailing us at supporter.relations@maf-uk.org

You can also pray from the comfort of your home by signing up at forthesakeoftheworld.com/maf-prayer for a slot on our Prayer Calendar. Last year, people from many nations committed to praying for MAF in this way.

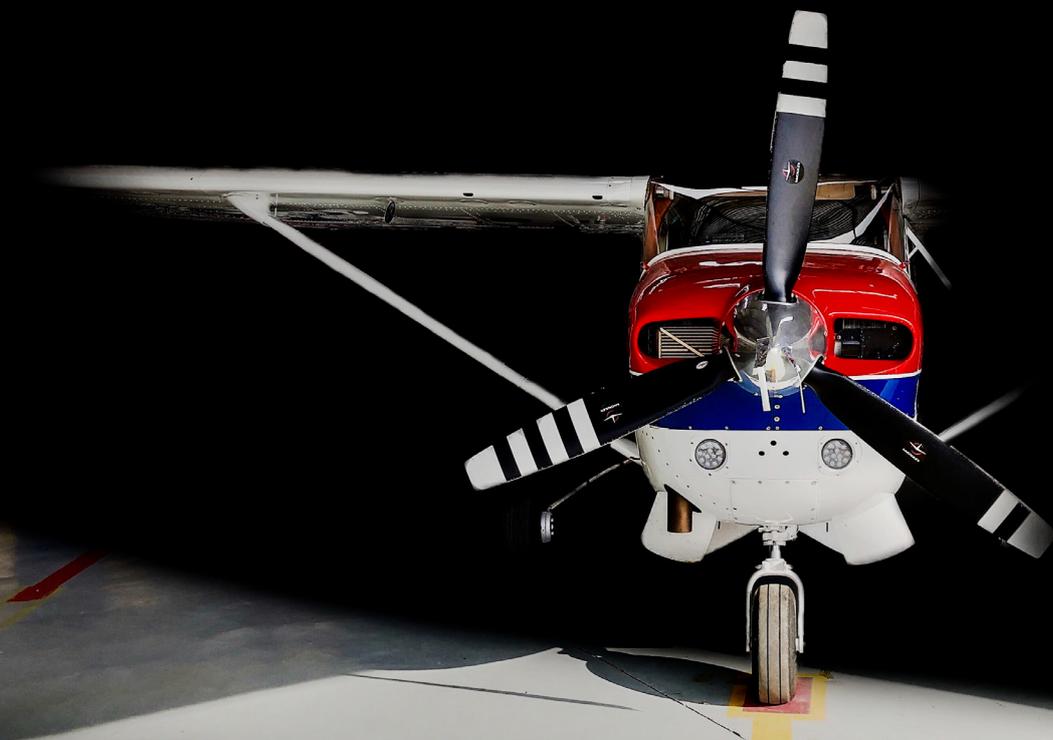
Together – united – we stand.

The dark reality of life might not go away right now, but we have faith that the light is shining and the darkness will not overcome it. My prayer is for the Lord to pull us all into His light and allow us to see His glory today.

Thank you so much for your support. God bless you.



What do you think of the *Special Edition Prayer Diary*? Phone now on [01303 852819](tel:01303852819) to give us your opinion



Hospital hopping in Madagascar

Story **Gary Clayton** Photos **Irina Randriamandrato** and **Dr Jeshiah Thiessen**

LEFT MAF flew Finaritra to his parents

BELOW The happy patient after his three-hour operation

BOTTOM 'We've flown with MAF so many times already'

MAF's counter-intuitive flight foxes security personnel at Ivato International Airport

In May 2022, Dr Joel Chin and Dr Jeshiah Thiessen had already completed a round-trip flight with MAF to Mandritsara for a diabetes patient when they learned about another person needing urgent medical attention.

A man called Finaritra had broken his leg badly in a road accident.



According to the young man's aunt, the incident occurred in Antananarivo — Madagascar's capital — in the afternoon. 'We got to the hospital at 3pm but until 10pm, other than medicines for the pain supplied by the nurses, no doctors came to check on him or help.'

Eventually, Finaritra's family decided to transfer him to Mandritsara, where his parents live, and asked if MAF could fly him there.

Unfortunately, the aircraft security guards couldn't understand why a patient would want to go to hospital in Mandritsara for an operation rather than Antananarivo — it's usually the other way round — so the flight was initially delayed.

Eventually, when they realised that Finaritra was going home to his parents as well as to hospital, the ambulance finally made it to our plane waiting at the international airport.

There the two doctors made their patient as comfortable as possible before take-off.

After an uneventful 80-minute flight, Finaritra landed safely in Mandritsara — his concerned parents waiting for him on the airstrip. As soon as Finaritra was taken from our aircraft and loaded on to the waiting pickup truck, the patient, his parents and the two doctors set off for HVM — the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara.

The next day, Finaritra's father phoned to say that, after a successful three-hour operation on his femur, his son was doing well, and wanted to thank MAF for everything we'd done for him and his family.

Delighted at the happy outcome, Dr Thiessen said, 'We've flown with MAF so many times already, they've always been so quick and helpful.'

Praise God for another successful flight and for the hundreds of medevacs MAF makes across the world every year.



See pages 4-5 of the *Prayer Diary* and pray for Madagascar



More than just a job: it's your purpose, career and passions all in one place

Story Claire Gilderson Photos LuAnne Cadd and Stef Gidney

Having a 'purpose in life' was always Ryan Cuthel's dream. Today, MAF Kenya's Country Director and Pilot is still living that dream 17 years after joining MAF

Ryan Cuthel has served with MAF Kenya and MAF South Sudan — initially as a pilot and, more recently, as Country Director — since 2005.



Growing up, his admiration for 'fast things' ignited his passion for flying. A career as a pilot was calling and Ryan was blessed to attend flight school at the age of 17 before becoming a Christian a year later.

God was going to use Ryan's skills and passions in ways he never imagined.

'I always had dreams and passions, but not a purpose,' says Ryan. 'My ideas back then were about making money and setting myself up for comfort, but God had other ideas and changed my heart. What was my purpose — to make money and die? There had to be more to it.'

As a young pilot, Ryan never forgot those first few landings in Kenya.

'Nairobi felt developed, but an hour and a half later, I'd land somewhere that felt like the end of the earth. The sheer remoteness was quite a shock. Sometimes I thought, "How did I end up here?"

'I only expected to stay for two years, but it's a job I could easily do for the rest of my life and not get bored.

'You're helping people spiritually and physically. It's necessary, pioneering work.

'Everyone who works with MAF loves it — it's not just the job, but everything it encompasses. It's your purpose, career and passions all in one place.

'Someone said to me, "You know your problem? You try and find a job that fills every compartment of your life." With MAF, it actually does!'

For anyone thinking of joining MAF, Ryan says, 'We joined MAF because it was what God placed in us. If we didn't use it, it wouldn't be right.

If you feel like God is stirring something in you, chase after it because He has probably put something in you, too!

God will take you on an amazing journey.'



*Everyone who works
with MAF loves it —
it's not just the job,
but everything it
encompasses. It's your
purpose, career and
passions all in one place*

Ryan Cuthel

**Working for
MAF is more
than just a job**

For all our latest
vacancies, visit

**[www.maf-uk.org/
journey](http://www.maf-uk.org/journey)** or phone
01303 852819

LEFT Ryan Cuthel
RIGHT 'It's a job I could easily do
for the rest of my life.'

'MAF has been very kind to us'

Story Gary Clayton Photos Ryan Cuthel

MAF partner Rev Purity Murungi of Christ is the Answer Ministries (CITAM) recently flew to northern Kenya to visit the organisation's projects

CITAM has seven mission stations in Kenya: three in Marsabit and one in Archers Post, Kargi, Loiyangalani and Olturot.

The stations serve people of the Borana, Burji, Gabra, Rendille, Samburu and Turkana people groups, many of whom worship spirits as well as their ancestors.

Purity continues, 'We're also looking into doing projects in sanitation, health and financial empowerment, and putting up mills where the women can grind their maize.'

'We also want to start digging boreholes to provide clean water. In one of our stations, the women make jewellery which we export to provide an income.'

CITAM, in partnership with Missions of Hope International, also delivers quality education, with some of their students going on to pursue theological training.

The ultimate goal is for the people CITAM assists to eventually take over.

'The Borana mission outpost,' Purity points out, 'is headed by one of the pastors that we've educated from high school.'

Kenya's roads are generally poor, so MAF flights save countless hours of exhausting, enervating overland travel that would otherwise waste time, money and energy.

'We'd also like to host veterinary and medical camps to reach remote communities,' Purity concludes.

'People from our congregations are willing to go, but they aren't willing to spend all their time on the road.'

'But if MAF helps us fly from one station to the next, then we can achieve a lot.'

'When the Rendille New Testament was launched in Marsabit,' Purity smiles, 'we had a big celebration! The completed translation is such a milestone.'

CITAM's 'core business of evangelism and discipleship' is expressed through holistic mission – Purity's flight with MAF enabling her to support and evaluate the Christian NGO's farming, agriculture and agribusiness projects.

'We like working with MAF,' she explains, 'because we have the same values. You've been very kind to us.'

'All our stations have a livestock restocking programme funded by the humanitarian agency of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada ERDO, which stands for Emergency Relief & Development Overseas.'

By growing fruit and vegetables and enabling villagers to breed goats, the communities will now enjoy a more varied diet.



LEFT CITAM has seven mission stations in Kenya

TOP RIGHT MAF flights save

passengers countless hours of travel

MIDDLE RIGHT Holistic mission, made

possible by our partnership with CITAM

BOTTOM RIGHT 'If MAF helps us fly

from one station to the next, then we

can achieve a lot'

Beyond isolation: Arnhem Land

Story Richard Chambers Photos Nungalingya College, Lukas Schmid and Anton Zhang

Flying for Life's featured programme this autumn is MAF Arnhem Land. We began serving the people of this vast yet sparsely populated area of Australia in 1973



Located in the north-eastern corner of the Northern Territory, Arnhem Land encompasses more than 37,000 square miles.

The official tourism website www.northernterritory.com describes this remote wilderness in terms of its secluded beaches, breathtaking scenery, rare wildlife, and the tropical waters of the Arafura Sea which offer 'some of the best fishing in the world'.



The Yolŋu people of these Aboriginal homelands – for whom Arnhem Land is a legally recognised reserve – are more likely to speak of the heat, humidity and huge physical distances between communities.

Arnhem Land was officially returned to its indigenous population in 1976, having been one of many vast tracts of Australia colonised by Britain.

Only a few years before this, they had finally been given full citizenship and voting rights. Unfortunately, by that time, the savage effects of colonial rule upon 'first Australians' had consigned them to a life of social and material poverty.



Walking with the Yolŋu

Three MAF bases at Gove and Elcho Island in the north and Ramingining in the west employ 31 international and 8 national staff to serve the Yolŋu by 'walking alongside them', in the words of our ministry plan.

This translates to living among them, learning their culture – including the Matha, or Yolŋu 'tongue' – and listening to their leaders as MAF personnel fly them across their vast land.

The ten aircraft operated by MAF Arnhem Land provide men, women and children with vital access to healthcare, education and development opportunities. Our fleet also ensures that the Yolŋu can attend funerals – sacred ceremonies which often last for months.

All this is done in the pursuit of sustainable, relational, intentional outreach embedded within the daily life of each MAF Arnhem Land team member.

Redressing the balance

In 2021, we flew census papers to remote Yolŋu communities so their needs could be represented in the Australian census.

This government survey is a vital snapshot of the country's wealth, belief systems and health. It is used by many departments and organisations to guide decision making, and – ultimately – where precious funds are spent.

Historically, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Australia has been undercounted. MAF's help has therefore been crucial in finally redressing that imbalance in representation.

Another imbalance is that of gender rights, with domestic violence horribly prevalent in remote communities.

To help combat this, MAF has developed a strong working partnership with organisations that offer a haven to victims of domestic violence in the East Arnhem region.

See pages 8-9 of
the *Prayer Diary*
and pray for
Arnhem Land



MAF designates the rapid evacuation of abused adults and children from remote communities as both 'high priority' and 'high impact'.

Strength and maturity

'I find joy in being able to serve as a cog in the machinery of God's work of growing the Yolŋu Church in Arnhem Land,' says MAF Pilot Anton Zhang.

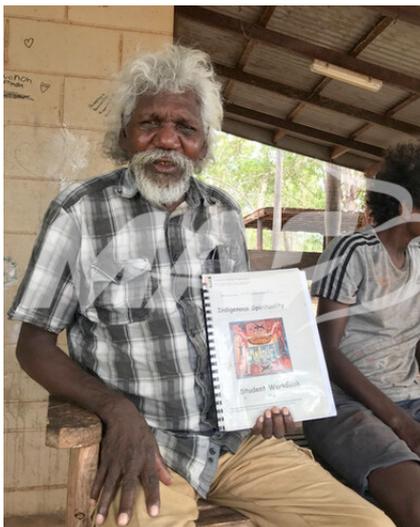
As 2021 drew to a close, Anton flew staff from Nungalingya College in Darwin to Arnhem Land to celebrate their students' academic achievements with them. The visit also enabled staff to enrol new college students for this academic year.

'One of the flights was to my MAF home base of Ramingining,' Anton recalls, 'where the staff were able to hold a ceremony for students graduating from the Bible Overview, Bible Translation, and Art courses.'

Nungalingya College also offers courses in Media, Music and Discipleship, Christian Ministry and Theology and Bible Translation. Every year, up to 300 indigenous students from 100 communities – representing more than 30 different language groups – attend these courses.

The graduation celebrations include singing, dancing and retelling some of what the students have learnt as part of their studies.

All this takes place in local churches whose partnership with the college and MAF has led to an increasing number of indigenous Christians growing in strength and maturity.



MAIN God's promise in the skies above Australia
FAR LEFT The breathtaking scenery of Arnhem Land
CENTRE LEFT Tutors from Nungalingya College
LEFT Up to 300 students a year attend College courses
ABOVE MAF's partnerships lead to an increase in mature Christians

ARNHEM LAND TIMELINE

- 1930s
Rev Harold Shepherdson operates single mission aircraft
- 1973
MAF programme launches on Elcho Island
- 1975
Sub-base established at Gove Airport (now Nhulunbuy)
- 1983
MAF granted Supplementary Airline Licence for scheduled services on a Cessna 402 aircraft
- 1993
A Cessna 206 aircraft joins the fleet
- 1995
Three aircraft and two properties establish the Yolŋu's own airline
- 2006
MAF hands its regular public transport routes to Aboriginal Air Services
- 2010
Christian revival in Arnhem Land. Many come to Christ
- 2017
MAF receives Air Operator's Certificate, enabling Yolŋu to book individual flights rather than entire charters
- 2022
MAF Arnhem Land celebrates 49 years flying 'Beyond isolation'





On holy ground

Story **Richard Chambers** Photos **Galiwin'ku Women's Space** and **MAF Arnhem Land**

MAF Arnhem Land works with Miyalk Domestic and Family Violence Shelter (MDFVS) to provide emergency evacuation flights for vulnerable women and children

'Strong hearts. Strong minds. Strong family. Free from violence' is MDFVS' slogan. The domestic violence charity relies on MAF to help at short notice when women and children need rescuing.

Sarah-Jane lived in a small East Arnhem Land community. She left her partner in 2021 after he hit her on the head with a hammer.

He also threatened her daughter with a crossbow, wrecked their house, threatened to put a 'black magic spell' on Sarah-Jane, and harassed her at church.

She remained calm, trusting in the safety of God's house. 'I was on holy ground,' she says.

MDFVS worked hard with Sarah-Jane to develop a safety plan until the police were able to assist.

Daily threats to kill her and her child meant it was crucial to get them both out of the community as soon as possible.

Responding immediately to MDFVS' urgent request, MAF evacuated mother and daughter on a special charter flight to Nhulunbuy.

When our aircraft landed, Sarah-Jane's long road to recovery began.

Lucy was involved in abusive

relationships from an early age. She referred herself to MDFVS after an argument with her partner ended in a physical assault.

Lucy was pregnant and in desperate need of a strong, supportive environment in which to prepare for the birth of her baby.

MAF flew her away from danger to the safety of her home community.

Sarina has been in and out of hospital because of multiple assaults by her partner, who is now in prison.

However, Sarina received no support from the people in her community. Several of them continued to intimidate her, blaming Sarina for her husband's incarceration.

Sarina was exhausted, isolated and feeling increasingly insecure, so MAF flew her back to her family. Once there, she was able to rest, safe in the knowledge that no one could harm her anymore.

MAIN The Galiwin'ku Women's Space empowerment conference for which MAF provided transport

INSET A snapshot of the courageous women seeking to end domestic violence
RIGHT Senior Australian of the Year 2021 Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann (left) spoke at the conference



The women in this story have had their names changed to protect their identities. Please pray for them, and those who will undoubtedly follow them to MDFVS — and MAF — in search of 'holy ground'.

'MAF saves people's lives'

Story and Photos **Lobitos Alves**

When Filomena de Jesus Soares' six-year-old son was diagnosed with dengue fever earlier this year, MAF Timor-Leste was — once again — her only hope

'At midnight, my son Bendito was in severe fever,' Filomena recalls. 'I was shocked, and panicked because I found blood running out of his nose.'

'We immediately brought him to the clinic. The doctor said he had dengue fever and needed to be transferred to the national hospital in the capital Dili for specialist treatment.'

'We stayed at the clinic until the morning, then an MAF plane came and picked us up. Before then, I felt very sad but — when the plane arrived — I felt very happy because our child would be able to get treatment.'

'Bendito has been medically evacuated with MAF's plane twice before. Firstly, with severe abdominal pain and, secondly, when he had stomach problems again.'

'Flying with MAF took us just a few minutes instead of going by boat, which takes more hours of travelling to Dili.'



'We were very thankful for the care package that MAF gave us because, when we entered the hospital, we didn't bring any supplies and we had no time to go shopping.'

'Fortunately, MAF gave us this present that would help us — cookies, clothes, credit vouchers, drinking water and sanitary materials.'

Filomena is extremely grateful. 'We want to keep MAF missions continuing because MAF saves people's lives, especially women in labour and children in rural areas.'

Her son Bendito was discharged from the hospital on 14 April.

He has now recovered and is living at home with his family on Atauro Island. Praise the Lord!



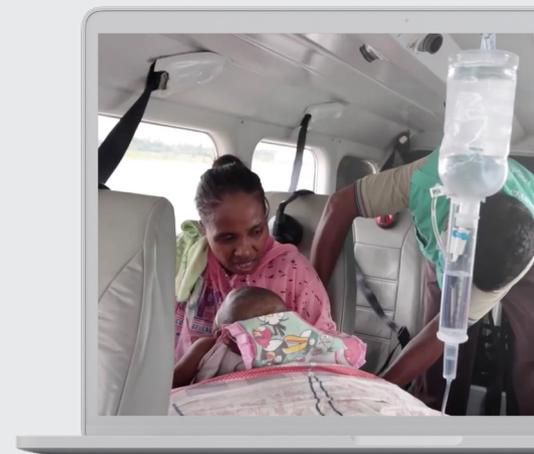
TOP 'Flying with MAF took us just a few minutes'

ABOVE Nurse Eva Fatima Saldanha flew with MAF for the first time

LEFT Bendito and Filomena



You can watch an amazing MAF video of another recent medevac in Timor-Leste



STEP 1: Download Blippar to your phone — visit www.maf-uk.org/blippar for full instructions

STEP 2: Launch the app, hold your smartphone over any page featuring the logo above and hit the 'scan' button

STEP 3: See how your prayers and gifts play a huge part in the lives of others

Thank you for your life-saving support!





We see hope

Story **Jill Vine** Photos **Sheila Kengingo, Jill Vine and WSH**

Communications Officer Jill Vine reports on an organisation helping to transform the lives of children and families across Africa

Flying south from Gulu to the MAF base at Kajjansi, Sheila Kengingo spills over with positivity as she explains the work she loves.



'At We See Hope (WSH), we help orphaned and vulnerable children, addressing their emergency needs before taking them from strength to strength.'

Sheila flies with us every quarter. 'MAF is very supportive,' she says. 'Once, when MAF was fully booked, I experienced first-hand how much harder it is to have to drive eight hours instead of to fly one.'

WSH operates across Uganda in Gulu, Pader, Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Fort Portal, Kyenjojo and Ntoroko.

The programmes it has established are making a long-term impact in thousands of children's lives.

To date, this impressive organisation has collaborated with 106 partners across 13 African countries, reaching more than 675,000 children and 90,000 parents.

Its Child Rights Clubs teach children who've dropped out of school about rights and responsibilities. Its staff help set up small projects that generate income with which they buy uniforms and equipment, enabling them to return to school.

'In each club, we work with 7 schools containing 40 kids,' Sheila explains. 'For three years, we work alongside staff, providing them with a patron, a matron and a child officer. Once the clubs are established, we move on to another community.'



Children who can't go on to secondary schools are enrolled in vocational courses such as welding, building, carpentry, tailoring and hairdressing.

At the end of their training, the school leavers are given the help necessary to start business centres, which provide employment for other vulnerable children.

WSH's Orphan Support groups teach children to solve their problems using psychosocial tools, and follow up those classes with home visits, guidance and counselling.

The Village Improvement Program (VIP) distributes micro-loans to communities, supporting each of the groups and individuals it funds for up to three years, thus ensuring their long-term sustainability.

It's no wonder Sheila ended her conversation with me by saying, 'I love my work. It requires a lot of passion, but it gives me great joy.'

MAIN WSH provides women with micro-loans that ensure long-term sustainability
INSET More than 90,000 parents across 13 African countries have benefited from WSH projects

FAR LEFT Sheila Kengingo
LEFT WSH mentors have supported many thousands of vulnerable children



The butterfly effect

Story **Richard Chambers** Photos **Zacharie François**

Although trainee pilot-engineer Zacharie François grew up around MAF families, he wasn't especially interested in becoming a pilot or a mechanic – until a flight in May 2013 changed his life

The flight — courtesy of family friend and MAF Pilot Will White — gave Zacharie an entirely new perspective on life. Until then, his view of Haiti had been limited to the capital Port-au-Prince, where he'd lived his entire life.

Now, as a 16-year-old — away from a city of nearly three million people — he saw rural Haiti for the first time.

'I realised how poor my country was,' Zacharie recalls, 'but I knew the potential that exists in Haiti. I also saw that mission aviation can actually change the ending for so many isolated people.'

After that flight, Zacharie's heart was moved to become a missionary aviator.

Years later, following high school graduation and working as an apprentice aircraft mechanic with MAF Haiti, Zacharie found himself waiting with a pilot at an airstrip for passengers to arrive. Local children gathered excitedly around their aircraft.



'Haitians can't fly this thing,' said a six-year-old boy. 'They can't work on this!'

Zacharie told him that Haitian pilots and mechanics *did* exist, but the other children echoed their agreement with the young boy.

That heartbreaking comment continues to drive Zacharie to be an inspirational example to his fellow Haitians.

Yet he understands the ingrained poverty that leads to such attitudes.

'I grew up in a Christian home and hung out with missionaries from

different countries. But I also lived with the struggles that Haitians endure — my parents were also poor.'

Recently, Zacharie received a call from a pilot at MAF Haiti's Port-au-Prince hangar. The starter generator on the Cessna Caravan was smoking.

On opening the starter-generator, Zacharie saw that a large butterfly had entered through the hole located behind the propeller.

This discovery led to 'butterfly invasion' now being included in MAF's maintenance training.

Speaking about the unique 'butterfly effect' that brought him to MAF, Zacharie concludes, 'Our heavenly Father allowed me to grow up in this environment and use my story to inspire others to seek a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him.'

MAIN A butterfly brings an MAF aircraft to a standstill
INSET Tiny creature, huge effect!
ABOVE Zacharie François (left)

The MAF Advent Adventure is back this Christmas!

Yes, we did just say 'Christmas' and yes, we know it's only September!

We'd like to invite you to come on a journey around the MAF world with our trusty trio of friends — Mike, Alpha and Foxtrot — discovering fascinating facts and great stories about MAF along the way.

Order a printed Advent calendar* so you and your family can enjoy opening the doors each day to find out who — or what — Mike is transporting in his MAF plane each day during Advent.

Simply head online to www.mafadvent.org to explore that day's destination in more detail.

Find out how MAF helps the people there, watch inspiring videos, download fun Christmas activity sheets, complete a daily kindness challenge and — of course — enter the grand competition!

To avoid disappointment, pre-order your printed Advent calendar now by visiting www.maf-uk.org/orderadventcalendar, or phone **01303 852819**.

Sign up for daily email reminders starting on 30 November, by visiting www.mafadvent.org now!



*We're asking for a suggested donation of £4 per calendar to cover postage and packaging.

This is Mission Aviation Fellowship

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian organisation operating more than 25 programmes in developing countries to reach the world's forgotten people — those living out of sight, out of mind and out of hope. With land access denied by inaccessible terrain — due to natural disaster, war or economic crisis — thousands of communities are completely isolated. Operating more than 120 light aircraft, MAF's pilots fly into more than 1,000 remote destinations. Whether landing in deserts or jungles, on lakes, rivers, tracks or roads, MAF planes transport essential medical care, food, water, relief teams and church workers to those in desperate need. Each flight carries practical help, spiritual hope and physical healing to thousands of men, women and children for whom flying is not a luxury but a lifeline.

MAF is flying for life.

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It costs us no more than 95p to produce and send you this magazine and prayer diary.



A model supporter

MAF supporter John Porter's early memories of flying take him back to the 'school run' from Tanganyika (now Tanzania) to Nairobi, in a De Havilland Dragon Rapide

In that year, 1950, MAF made its first operational flight in Sudan in the same type of 1930s, wood-and-fabric biplane.

Fast forward to 1956, where — as a member of the school model engineering club — I made a flying model of the Piper Cruiser. That aircraft was the one used by Nate Saint, flying for MAF in Ecuador.

Flying for Life readers may recall that was the year of the 'mid-century martyrs', when Nate and four other missionaries were speared to death by indigenous tribesmen. A few years later, when Nate's wife Marj recounted the story to audiences around the UK, a friend and I volunteered to help with the London meetings.

We stayed with Steve Stevens and his wife at the MAF HQ in South Woodford. Following her visit to our shores, Marj wrote me several letters which I still have. She was a lovely lady.

I still have the Piper Cruiser model and — like the chap who built it — the model looks a little worse for wear 66 years on! My wife Mary and I use it as a visual aid when speaking to groups about MAF.

The connections I have with these historical milestones in MAF's mission continue to enthuse me — combining my faith with my interest in aircraft. Hopefully, when we have 'gone up yonder', MAF will benefit from the legacy Mary and I have pledged.

'And how can they hear?'

In the previous issue of *Flying for Life*, we enclosed a flyer so that you could book your local MAF speaker for an event near you. The response continues to be so positive that we need more volunteers to become the 'voice' of MAF!

As it says in Romans 10:14, 'And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?'

Quite simply, we need more men and women from the MAF family to put themselves forward as volunteer speakers. We need you to become the 'voice' of MAF — to be that 'someone' Paul speaks of in Romans, who will tell audiences about our mission.

To talk about becoming an MAF speaker, please phone Kevin Crook on 01933 279782 or you can email him at kevin.crook@maf-uk.org

If you're in Scotland, please phone Andy Martin on 0141 332 5222



**Thank you for the
prayers and gifts which
led to the launch of
MAF Guinea in 2022**