FLYING FORLIFE

MAF UK'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

APR-JUN 2024







www.maf-uk.org

supporter.relations@maf-uk.org 01303 852819

Front cover MAF is flying for life in Kenya

■ Jacqueline Mwende

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in over 25 countries. Operating more than 115 aircraft, MAF's pilots overcome terrain that has become inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disaster, or violent conflict. MAF aircraft fly into more than 1,000 destinations — transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries where they are needed most. Each flight brings practical help, spiritual hope and physical healing to thousands of isolated people in remote communities for whom flying is a lifeline not a luxury. MAF is flying for life.

MAF respects the indigenous people of Arnhem Land. We have tried to ensure that names and photographs of deceased indigenous people do not appear in our publications.

Flying for Life

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Thank you for your gift!

Just before Christmas, more than 2,000 loyal supporters showed their love for isolated families by sending a seasonal gift to our special appeal.

The story of baby Hajam's first Christmas — thanks to an emergency MAF flight — gave rise to a wonderful outpouring of generosity that is now helping even more people in remote parts of the world. A few of those men, women and children are featured in this issue.

Sign up now to our special appeal letters by emailing supporter.relations@maf-uk.org





Wherever you see this symbol, it indicates a flight where MAF responded to a problem caused by the climate crisis, or transported a partner who supports creation care.

■ Lobitos Alves



Ask and it will be given

One of Jesus Christ's most inspirational commands can be found in Luke 11:9-10.

'So, I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'

MAF continues to follow Jesus, as we pray and pursue our calling — serving in remote communities where previously locked doors are opening in response to His irresistible knock.

However, this cannot happen until airstrips are established so this spring issue features a story on page 6 of how one Tanzanian woman's commitment to MAF has 'served as a bridge between it and our community.'

Decades of similar bridge-building in Madagascar has led to Gospel missions filling sports stadiums (page 4), while the expansion of our Papua New Guinea programme means more lives are saved even when all hope seems lost (page 10).

And every one of these stories begins — as does Jesus' command — with us asking you to pray and give towards the vision of a transformed planet which is at the heart of everything we seek to achieve.

May I thank you most sincerely for helping us fulfil Christ's wishes.

Donovan Palmer

Chief Executive, MAF UK

On A. M









We couldn't have embarked on this mission without you.

An evangelistic team from Missions 3:16 is thrilled to discover MAF's presence in Madagascar

nthony Greco (bottom) was studying at Bible college in western Canada when a visiting MAF speaker inspired the students with the possibility of serving the Lord through aviation.

'Many years later,' the preacher from Missions 3:16 says, 'MAF came to my mind when we were trying to find a way to get to Fianarantsoa. I did some research and found out that MAF is indeed in Madagascar!

'I was incredibly encouraged by the organisation's presence."

Thanks to our plane, which played an important part in making it all possible, a team of missionaries (far left) flew to Fianarantsoa to share the Good News with the local community.

Although this was Anthony's first visit to Madagascar, the evangelist was already buoyed by the warmth and hospitality of the sizeable crowd that welcomed his team with open arms at a Gospel rally.

The event, held at a football stadium in Antananarivo, saw many of the attendees eagerly accept the Good News. Because of this, the team had high hopes for an equally enthusiastic reception at Fianarantsoa (right).

This, Anthony explained, would be the start of a massive Gospel outreach — one that would begin with a pastors' conference at which about 500 pastors and leaders from 125 churches and denominations were expected.

'We genuinely appreciate MAF because there are no commercial flights to Fianarantsoa and the alternative would have been a 15-hour bus ride. Thanks to you, we have the opportunity to fly and maximise our time and efficiency.'

Before boarding our aircraft, Anthony added, 'What a joy it is to witness this organisation drawing some of the most exceptional people with the finest talents and an unwavering passion to serve the Lord.

With your support, we are making an irreplaceable difference. We couldn't have embarked on this mission without you.'



artha vividly recalls the immediate impact that first encounter with MAF had on her life.

Thanks to the swift response of MAF aircraft,' she says, 'I witnessed critically ill patients being flown to Arusha for treatment, while others were rushed to Wasso Hospital (two hours north of Malambo)."

Martha (top right) realised immediately the immense potential that MAF represented for communities in the Same district, where so many villages cannot be reached by road.

'A significant number of our children have grown into adulthood without having the opportunity to receive essential vaccinations,' she explains. 'This has left them highly vulnerable to severe health risks during viral diseases outbreaks.'

Following Martha's subsequent meetings with MAF, several new airstrips were built. These included the runway at Katahe - which was the primary landing site for the Same district — and the one at Lesirwai. Both have had a tremendous effect on the lives of isolated people.

Martha emphasises the benefits which multitudes of pregnant mothers and their children have been afforded by the healthcare they've received since MAF arrived.

'People also receive access to vaccines,' she enthuses, 'and there are many opportunities to share the Gospel.

'For many in Lesirwai (right), their hope is deeply linked to the presence of MAF, without whom they would encounter significant difficulties in accessing healthcare due to the considerable distances to hospitals.'

MAF has truly become a lifeline for people in the Same district, but there is yet more that we can do in Tanzania.

'It remains essential to steadfastly support MAF's mission,' Martha states emphatically. 'There are still numerous areas where MAF's services are needed.'

Martha's appreciation for her partnership with MAF is truly heartfelt.

'I'm thankful to have worked closely with MAF and to have served as a bridge between it and our community. Knowing that I've played a part in improving the lives of our people has brought me immense satisfaction.

'I'm profoundly thankful to MAF for their trust in me and for the fruitful partnership we've shared."

REPORT JACQUELINE MWENDE / PHOTOS JACQUELINE MWENDE AND VARGHESE PHILIP

Martha Kauta's first encounter with MAF more than a decade ago led to the construction of new airstrips in remote Tanzania. Hundreds of lives have since been saved and transformed



More than just a job: it's a later-life adventure

STORY JO LAMB

MAF Property and Vehicle Manager Dave Moore has traded the indoor heat of Cornwall's iconic Eden Project for the high altitudes of Papua New Guinea (PNG), where he oversees more than 70 MAF houses, 18 vehicles and 7 aircraft hangars

hen I heard about MAF as a kid, I remember thinking it looked cool!' smiles Dave. 'But life took over, and I had some great jobs in maintenance and management while bringing up two wonderful kids.'

Those jobs included keeping 120 pumps running in Cornwall's Eden Project. He and his wife Caroline enjoyed the benefits of British seaside living in Bude — sea kayaking and ballroom dancing being among their favourite pastimes.

But, in 2018, Dave found himself fighting sepsis from a hospital bed.

'It was a turning point which made me consider a job with a greater purpose,' he recalls. 'After seeing an MAF advert during my recovery, I never looked back.'

Dave and Caroline celebrated their 50s by moving 9,000 miles away to Mount Hagen, deep in PNG's Western Highlands.

Surrounded by dense jungle and visible poverty, Dave has seen incredible physical and spiritual benefits.

'I've been reliant on asthma medication my entire life. But the clean air and new lifestyle in PNG seems to have been deeply healing. It's a real miracle and I feel fantastic.'



So it's strictly come dancing once again for Dave and Caroline.

'Culturally,' he explains, 'men and women don't hold hands in public, so we draw the curtains and keep the music low. At these altitudes, an Argentine tango is a real workout!'

Overseeing the maintenance of MAF's houses, hangars, and vehicles in the absence of Screwfix or Amazon deliveries has been an interesting challenge, which Dave learns to smile about.

Training local apprentices is

deeply fulfilling for Dave. 'When a young lad fixed a washing machine in an MAF house,' he says, 'the team said it was the best work they'd seen in 25 years. That was a great day's work.'

Summing up their later-life adventure, Dave concludes, 'God has asked us to live this exciting journey in PNG to bring help to isolated communities – we really do count it as a deep privilege.'

(You can read how Dave has 'cleaned up' MAF PNG's Kagamuga compound on page 12.)





EMAIL HR@MAF-UK.ORG,
PHONE 01303 850950 OR
SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT WORKING WITH MAF

Four hours, not four days

■ hanks to MAF, three-year-old Ojiya from Juba, South Sudan, avoided a gruelling four-day road trip to her life-saving operation in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Born with gastroschisis — a hole in her stomach — Ojiya's bowel formed outside her body while she was in her mother's womb. Following complex reconstructive surgery, the little girl recovered fully in hospital. Praise the Lord!

Advanced medical procedures such as that undergone by Ojiya are not readily available in South Sudan. The dangerous overland trip to Kenya was out of the question because of the young girl's condition but, fortunately, flying with MAF took less than four hours.

After phase one of the incredibly complex operation, we were delighted to hear these words from Ojiya's father Boniface, 'Her operation was a success and she's getting better and better every day.'



Thank you for your magnificent support - it makes beautiful stories like these possible!





We thank God for Maud and her incredible life dedicated to His service.



Our great friend Maud

n October 2023, we heard of the peaceful passing of legendary missionary and MAF frequent flyer Maud Kells OBE.

A dedicated servant of God, Maud gave 54 years of her life to improving health and education for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Maud was also one of the countless people to be grateful for MAF's ability to respond rapidly in an emergency.

In January 2015, having been shot through the chest by a man attempting to burgle her home in Mulita, she was flown to Nyankunde Mission Hospital where her life was saved.

'So much of the healing process was really MAF caring for me, loving me and just being so kind and so hospitable,' Maud told the Belfast Telegraph as she recovered from the gunshot wound.

'I probably wouldn't have survived if it hadn't been for MAF!' Before the end of that same year, she returned to Mulita where the entire community celebrated joyously with singing and dancing.

(MAF's Andy Martin spoke at Maud's memorial service on 20 January in Cookstown, Northern Ireland.)



The talking Bible

ccording to Papua New Guinea's newspaper The National, only 63.4% of the country's population can read and write. In remote, rural areas illiteracy rates are even higher so, in a bid to spread the Gospel far and wide, MAF supplies solar-powered audio Bibles to communities in northern PNG. Villagers can now listen to God's Word in their own language at the press of a button.



For avid listeners using this technology for the first time, this is truly a modern miracle.

Your introduction to all of MAF's online news stories, available in full at www.maf-uk/news



scan me



Catch up with the Flying for Life podcast!

Missed the latest episode? Have no fear, you can listen to it here: www.maf-uk.org/podcast

To mark MAF Arnhem Land's incredible 50 years, MAF Country Director Matt Henderson and Natalie Morreau from Miyalk Domestic and Family Violence Shelter reveal the risks and rewards of rescuing domestic violence survivors across the isolated wilderness of northern Australia.



Hear the good news in the words of your fellow MAF family members!





It took the Tasput family - Samuel, Kelin and one-month-old Bani - three weeks to walk from Yambaitok airstrip in Papua New Guinea back to their village of Kaiam. On the way, disaster struck

e started walking for three weeks,' says Samuel, 'carrying food and supplies. It was heavy and we were carrying our child, too.'

The family had hoped to fly back to their home village of Kaiam, but heavy rainfall had made the airstrip unsafe and it had been closed. Not knowing when the airstrip would reopen, they decided to take the next flight to Yambaitok and walk from there to Kaiam.

During their long walk home, Samuel (right) and Bani (left) fell ill with suspected TB. Bani became so weak that he couldn't breastfeed.

TB is easily preventable but, because of the constant struggle of getting healthcare to remote areas, many people contract the disease each year.

Samuel describes the terrible condition he and Bani were in when arriving back in Kaiam, where healthcare is very limited.

'I felt weak and I lost weight because of the hard walk. My child was also feeling sick. He was badly out of breath.

'It just so happened that we sent our medical team around to Kaiam at that time,' said Dr Camy Thomas, a dentist at Kompiam Hospital.

By the time the team landed at the newly reopened airstrip, Samuel and Bani's conditions had worsened terribly.

'My eye was very bad,' Samuel recalls. 'I couldn't think straight. My head, arms, legs were shaking in pain. I was so sick. The men in the village put us on the MAF plane and it took us to Kompiam Hospital.'

Samuel concludes by thanking the MAF family.

'If there was no MAF, I would have died in Kaiam. But we have MAF and they saved my life. I joyfully praise our God together with my family!'



But we have MAF and they saved my life.



Thanks to MAF, water shortages and sewage are now less of a problem in Papua New Guinea and southern Madagascar

ewage,' says MAF PNG Property and Vehicle Manager Dave Moore (far right), 'is the bane of any maintenance manager's life.'

MAF's Kagamuga compound is located near our base in Mount Hagen. Thanks to our Future Footprint project (see October-December 2023 issue), we've begun to provide additional housing and facilities for potential MAF families to meet the growing demands of our busy programme.

'With 11 new houses there already,' Dave says, 'trying to find suitable locations for septic tanks and soakaways is very difficult.' However, thanks to cutting-edge technology, three new bi-digestion systems have now been installed.

This highly sustainable, longterm, low-maintenance solution requires the removal of less waste, provides clear water and avoids damaging the soil.

Running the system using solar power will mean further financial and environmental benefits saving us from having to spend money on buying power to aerate the sewage.



Further new technology, thanks to MAF partner Global Health Ministries (GHM), is combatting the severe lack of water in southern Madagascar, with representatives from GHM flying to Antanimora Sud to assess the deep-water solutions project there.

'The wells we're building,' explains Executive Director Doug Cox, 'are extremely effective. You get water at just 50 metres throughout the whole year! And it isn't affected by rainfall.'

Fellow passenger Dale Hughes agrees, adding, 'One well is enough to help support about 4,000 people. So, imagine the impact of 15 more!'

GHM installs the deep wells and trains farmers to water their crops effectively - minimising water waste, maximising efficiency and enabling them to cultivate

up to three crop cycles a year, even in areas where agricultural development was previously impossible.

Next time you water your plants or wash your hands, why not give thanks that, due to aviation and technology, food security is being improved and sewage treated effectively?

Waste — whichever way you look at it — is now less of a problem in parts of Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, thanks to MAF!

PLEASE PRAY

- For the increasing use of solar power in all MAF programmes
- For clean, safe water to be available to more people worldwide

'The flight with MAF was amazing!'

REPORT AND PHOTOS JACQUELINE MWENDE STORY RICHARD CHAMBERS

Heavy rains and dense clouds meant MAF Kenya's David Graaf couldn't land his plane in Marsabit. But his enforced diversion turned out to be a welcome relief for teacher Noella Achieng

t was my first time flying,' says Noella (third from left), 'and, initially, the plan was to land in Marsabit. So I was concerned that the weather conditions would mean the plane would have to leave me there.'

Indeed, the road journey between Marsabit and Kargi would have taken many days because the bridge linking the two locations had been swept away by the torrential rainfall.

However, Noella now recounts how joyful her first experience with MAF turned out to be. 'The flight with MAF was amazing! If I'd travelled by road, it would have taken more than 13 hours in contrast to the 2-hour flight.'

Noella runs The Virtuous

Women Global Network as well as serving with Christ is the Answer Ministries (CITAM).

'My primary goal is to empower isolated women through education, using the two-month school holidays break to teach them Swahili.'

Learning the language helps women have conversations with their children in Swahili — one of Kenya's official languages — which is taught at school.

'It brings me so much joy and satisfaction to know that I can use my gift to help these women. I thank God for this opportunity that I have so longed for. It's a calling.' Eventually, Noella hopes to teach English — the other offfical language of Kenya — too.

On board the same flight were MAF International board members Rachel Gardner and Soren Filbert, who were visiting the MAF Kenya programme for the first time.

Naturally, they were eager to see the impact of MAF flights in underserved locations and to visit the CITAM project in Kargi, along with fellow passenger CITAM Finance and Administration Officer Paul Kimanthi.

CITAM is a long-standing MAF partner and depends on our aircraft to reach several remote communities in northern Kenya.

It offers medical and veterinary services to pastoralist communities who otherwise would not have easy access to the healthcare that keeps their culture thriving.



A new plane for the fleet!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of some MAF family members, we were given a new aircraft for Christmas. This is how BBC News reported the wonderful story



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Crew

One

Capacity

Nine passengers

Length

11.46m (37ft 7in)

Wingspan

15.87m (52ft 1in)

Height

4.53m (14ft 11in)

Wing area

25.96m² (279sq. ft)

Empty weight 2,145kg (4,730lb)

Gross weight

3,629kg (8,000lb)

Powerplant

One Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-114A turboprop

(503kW/675shp)

Propeller

Three-bladed McCaulev constantspeed, full feathering. reversible pitch

PERFORMANCE

Cruise speed

186kn (344km/h, 214mph) true air speed

Stall speed

61kn (113km/h, 70mph) calibrated air speed

1,070nmi (1,982km, 1,232mi)

Service ceiling

25,000ft

Rate of climb

1.234ft/min



Manx software company has donated £3m to charitable causes to mark its 40th anniversary. AFD Software (The Postcode People

www.afd.co.uk) pledged £1m to 80 groups, including Isle of Play, Beach Buddies and Isle Stand Up to Suicide. The firm has also bought a £2m humanitarian aircraft to support people in the mountains of Papua New Guinea.

AFD Managing Director David Dorricott (below, far right) said the plane would provide 'vital' medical aid and food supplies to communities in the remote destination.

The Cessna 208 Caravan, a gift to humanitarian air service Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), will be modified to land on the side of mountains and in deep jungle clearings. It is also set to transport passengers and solar panels for bush clinics to enable people to become less reliant on petrol-generated power by early 2025.

MAF Chief Executive Donovan Palmer (below, far left) said the service would be a 'lifeline for thousands of people in Papua New Guinea where isolation kills every single day."

The donation is the second of its kind by the Manx company, which also donated funds to the charity for a Kodiak aeroplane (above) to mark the company's 25th anniversary. That light aircraft performs life-saving flights in Kalimantan, Borneo, and has transported about 25,000 passengers and delivered 900,000kg of aid over the past 15 years.

Hundreds of medical evacuation flights had also 'undoubtedly saved many lives', Mr Palmer said.

Mr Dorricott said he was 'thrilled' the donations, which he described as an expression of his Christian faith, would 'transform the quality of life for thousands.'





Book a free MAF speaker today

Whether or not your church has yet to hear the uniquely inspirational words of an MAF speaker, this is a fantastic time to book one of our wonderful volunteers

Why?

Well, their inspiring presentations tell of men, women and children cut off from the rest of the world whose lives are being transformed because of your prayers and gifts!

In this issue, there is a special flyer that provides the contact details for your nearest MAF speaker.

If for some reason, you don't have your flyer or you need further information about booking an MAF speaker, please phone Allyson Edwards on 01303 852811. If you're in Scotland, please phone our office on 0141 332 5222, or email scottishoffice@maf-uk.org



A legacy of compassion

Born in Glasgow in 1930, George Murray grew up in a large family and lived an extraordinary life of kindness and dedication to others

An accomplished chef, he worked on transatlantic liners — inspiring the next generation of professionals by sharing his culinary skills.

In later life, George discovered the joys of golf achieving the rare feat of a 'hole in one' at the age of 90!

Despite a life full of high points, George endured profound personal tragedy. Both his sons died as teenagers. His beloved wife never recovered from this heartbreaking loss and passed away a few years later. Happily, George went on to remarry.

It was during a trip to South Africa that George discovered MAF. Deeply moved by our work delivering medical aid to remote communities, he became a devoted supporter.

George's donations to the work of our fleet helped to ensure that many more isolated people received the medical care they so urgently needed.

His compassion and forward-thinking also extended beyond his lifetime. George chose to leave a gift to MAF in his Will and — thanks to his extraordinary kindness — more than 70 hours of crucial medical flights in Liberia can be funded.

Every legacy we receive plays a vital role in changing the world, one flight at a time.

We are immensely grateful for displays of generosity such as George's. Legacies of compassion allow us to continue our mission to provide people with the essentials they would otherwise go without.

If you would like to leave a legacy to MAF, please phone Miriam Wheeler on 01303 852819 or email her at miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org

Where there's a Will there's a plane

READY FOR THE

ADVENTURE

OF A LIFETIME?

IF YOU'RE AGED 15-74, YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO VISIT MATC – OUR INTERNATIONAL FLYING SCHOOL IN THE NETHERLANDS!

ENJOY AN INTERACTIVE DAY EXPLORING YOUR SKILLS AS A FUTURE PILOT OR ENGINEER. GET A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WORK FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST HUMANITARIAN AIRLINE.

FRIDAY 26-SUNDAY 28 JULY 2024

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WE'LL EMAIL YOU AN ITINERARY OF THE WEEKEND, AN APPLICATION FORM AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS... INCLUDING HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY REACH YOUR FUNDRAISING TARGET!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENGINEER AND PILOT TRAINING SCHEMES
ON OUR WEBISTE: WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/WORKING-WITH-US

WHAT WILL I NEED?

- A GENUINE INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT TRAINING AND WORKING FOR MAF OVERSEAS AS A PILOT OR ENGINEER
- TO FUNDRAISE £300 (MINIMUM OF £200 TO ATTEND THE TRIP — £100 TO GO TOWARDS THE LIFE-SAVING WORK OF MAF)
 - AN UP-TO-DATE PASSPORT

WHAT WILL IT INCLUDE?

- TRAVEL TO THE NETHERLANDS VIA MINIBUS AND EUROTUNNEL
- OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD
- A FLIGHT LESSON (USING THE ELITE \$812 FLIGHT SIMULATOR)
 - ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS
- OPPORTUNITIES TO CHAT WITH AN MAF PILOT, MAF ENGINEERS AND CURRENT TRAINEES

