

AYLINGS IN AFRICA



For much of 2020 & 2021, in Tanzania, it felt as though we were watching through a window as the world-wide pandemic took hold around us. The 1st virus case arrived in mid-March 20 and the government immediately responded by closing schools. These re-opened at the end of June and since that point there have been virtually no restrictions placed on daily life at all.

Throughout last year the most obvious sign of the crisis taking place in the rest of the world, was the complete lack of foreign tourists particularly here in Arusha, an area that is normally brimming with them. This had a big affect on hotels, restaurants and local tour operators with many of them having to close down and lay-off staff.

At Christmas this all changed with a marked increase in tourist numbers, many from Russia and Eastern Europe. Unfortunately with the rise in tourism came a 2nd wave of the virus which hit the country harder than the 1st. In February the President appealed to the country to take 3 days to pray for the situation and to step up physical prevention measures at the same time.



Sadly events have since overtaken us since I began this newsletter and President Magufuli passed away on the 17th March 21 following heart problems.

In accordance with the constitution, the presidency passed to the then Vice-President Samia Hassan who become the first woman to lead an East African nation.

Unlike in many other parts of the World, MAF Tanzania was able to continue flying throughout the last year, serving isolated villages across the country. This brought with it quite a heavy responsibility at times, as we tried to weigh the benefits that the mobile clinics and childhood vaccination programmes could bring against the risk to villagers of them catching a virus from which they had little protection and little information. Many older Tanzanians return to the villages they were brought-up in as they reach retirement meaning that these remote villages were probably home to the most vulnerable sector of the population.



At the end of June last year we installed this vinyl screen into our aircraft to increase the separation of the pilot from the passengers and so to reduce the chances of virus transmission.



In July 20 Stewart took over as Programme Manager of MAF Tanzania as Jarkko Korhonen returned to Finland with his family.

A new pilot Lukas Schmid arrived with his family in February of 2020 to begin the process of getting his Tanzanian pilots license and work permits. Unfortunately the work permit proved to be exceptionally difficult to get and took more than 1 year to conclude. This meant frequent trips to Dodoma for Stewart to try to meet with Government Ministers who might be able to resolve the situation. Finally he was able to meet with the Deputy Minister for Labour which was a helpful opportunity to introduce the work of MAF and hopefully may provide a more reliable route to get work permits in the future.

These regular trips to Dodoma did also bring the benefit of some closer ties with other government departments. Meetings with the

doctor in charge of regional hospitals across the country has given some new directions for areas of the country that the government are unable to reach with medical services.

We have begun the process of constructing 3 new airstrips in the Kilindi District, about a 75 minute flight to the South of Arusha. This will provide 1 airstrip at the district hospital and then 2 others in isolated villages that can be served by medical teams from the hospital. We hope that it will be possible to have these in operation by the end of the year, so that they can be a regular part of our medical safari flights in 2022.

2020 started with Jack returning to Tanzania at the end of his Bible College course. He had planned to intern with a media mission in Arusha for a few months but unfortunately COVID put a stop to the that. Instead we had the unexpected bonus of having Jack with us through the lock-down period as he studied and investigated university options. In September 2020, Jack returned to the UK to begin a degree course at Liverpool Hope University, in Media & Communications and Religious Studies. As with most UK students this has meant studying online for almost the entire year with a limited number of in-person tutorials beginning just at the end of term.



Harry had an abrupt ending in March 2020 to his course at the Ethnos 360 Bible Institute. After finishing up these studies online he returned to the UK in August 2020 to look for temporary work to earn some money to fund the next part of his studies. He was able to find work fairly quickly at one of the COVID test centres on the edge of Kettering and he has continued to work there since that time. At the end of July Harry will be heading to

Canada to join the next phase of the Ethnos 360 (New Tribes Mission) missionary training programme. This is an 18 month course looking at the practicalities of missionary life and planting cross-cultural churches.



Robyn has reached the end of her A-level exams and her graduation after 2 years in the 6th form at Braeburn, studying Biology, History and Psychology. For the 1st half of her final year she was the Headgirl and despite some restrictions due to COVID precautions she was able to take part in quite a number of activities including, swimming, trapeze, Model United Nations, horse riding, kick-boxing, piano, ballet etc.....

Next year Robyn is planning to return to Tanzania. She is hoping to eventually study to be a vet and so she will be taking A-level chemistry, while also volunteering with some wild-life conservation organisations.

Arusha House Church has passed it's 4th anniversary. The last year has been a challenging one for AHC with some fairly prolonged periods of 'Virtual Meetings' on Zoom. Additionally a number of members of our leadership team have moved out of Tanzania so we are currently working to find people to replace them. However in the meantime we have had a series of people join our services for the 1st time and so it seems that there is still a continuing need for this fellowship.



Mt Meru with Mt Kilimanjaro visible (lower right) from 85kms away

It is now exactly 10 years since we first arrived in Tanzania to serve with MAF and we are hugely thankful for God's faithfulness to us during that time. So much has changed for our family and for MAF Tanzania but we are still seeing new opportunities for MAF Tanzania to serve in more remote locations and with some unreached people groups.

We are coming back to the UK for a short period during July and August. We will be visiting family, friends and supporters and would love to catch up with as many of you as possible during this time.

10 years is a long time and we are really thankful for the prayers and generosity of so many of you through this period. We continue to look for financial supporters who can assist us to bring us back to 100% of our funding target. Please do consider whether you would be able to help us in this way

If you would like to give regularly to our support work here or to advise of a change of address please contact :

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