



# SPRING, 2025 - NEWSLETTER

## NEW PLANES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Have you ever wondered what happens when a new plane joins the MAF fleet? It's not quite as simple as picking up a new car! New planes need to be inspected for any defects, sometimes new avionics technology needs to be installed, and extra ferry fuel tanks may need to be added to allow the plane to fly a long distance to reach its new home. A ferry pilot will undertake the long journey, potentially taking the plane to the programme where it will operate, or to a destination where it can undertake promotional activities before beginning its life as an MAF workhorse.

The logistics of expanding and updating the MAF fleet are no laughing matter! Having an engineer on hand in the UK office has been exceedingly useful for that very matter. Dave has been able to manage finding maintenance and hangar facilities for a brand new Cessna Caravan, visiting the UK and Norway, before it makes its long way to Papua New Guinea.



Amongst other things, it involved a trip to Gloucester, where the plane landed to have its ferry tanks removed. Dave was able to check on its condition after its journey across the Atlantic Ocean from America, and also calculate a maintenance schedule to ensure it has all of the checks needed for its work in the coming weeks and months.

Later in the year, this part of Dave's role will take him to America, where another new plane will be released from the Cessna factory. It will be his job to inspect it at the factory, to ensure everything meets MAF standards. That trip may incorporate additional activities, such as fitting new avionics equipment to an amphibious aircraft that will be winging its way toward Uganda.

That's only a part of what Dave's been busy with in this year based in MAF's head office in Ashford. As project manager for fleet development and innovation, a good portion of his time has been spent in exploring new technologies. MAF has always been at the cutting edge when it comes to our equipment; we are committed to providing our pilots with exceptional systems when it comes to avionics equipment, for example.



It's exciting to see how new technology could help to augment the services we offer, helping to reach some of the most isolated people groups in the world with many of the essential services that we so easily take for granted. From exploring the potential of different fuel sources such as electric and hydrogen, to looking into unmanned flight operations, Dave is conducting viability studies to help ensure MAF continues to function in the most efficient and effective ways, both now, and in the future.

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

## PRAY...

- We're going on holiday for two weeks to Scotland. Pray it would be a great time of rejuvenation and relaxation.
- For Dave, for inspiration and energy in his role in MAF's head office.
- For Becky, for courage and wisdom as she considers how to expand her ministry.

## PRAISE...

- For good health reports following checkups after some worrying health issues we'd experienced.
- For wonderful moments taking long walks and seeing family and friends in the UK.
- For finding a great church in Ashford, helping to refill and refuel us spiritually.

## STAY IN TOUCH



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# EXCITING MOMENTS IN THE UK



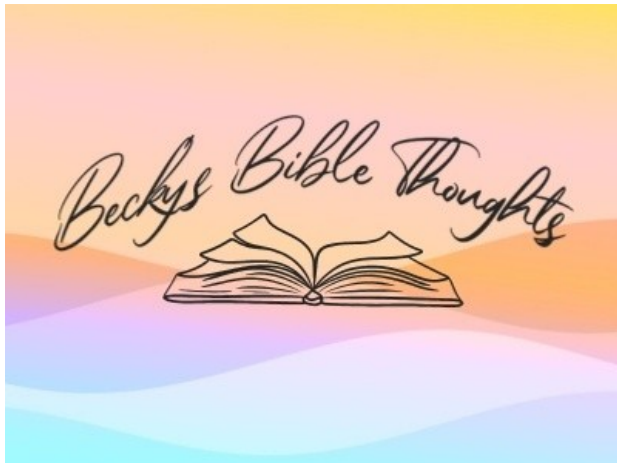
## FROSTY FUN

It might sound like a small thing, but after three solid years of constant sweat (and the exhaustion that brings), it's been a real novelty feeling cold! We've enjoyed wrapping up in many layers, and snuggling under a warm duvet at night. It's been a real joy to watch the season start to change, the buds of spring forcing their way through the hard ground to bring new life and colour. In both Uganda and Liberia, the season was either wet or dry, so experiencing the wonder of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter is something we are relishing in our time here.



## A ROYAL RECEPTION

Becky had the unexpected honour of being invited to Buckingham Palace in February this year, for a reception honouring many wonderful organisations working for various humanitarian causes. Along with three other MAF representatives, she walked through the palace gates and enjoyed the opportunities to meet and shake hands with the king and queen. The contrast of the opulence of the palace with the last few years in Liberia was dramatic, but it was really special to hear from so many people who had flown with, or knew of, the work of MAF around the world.



## A NEW START

If you've followed our journey for long, you'll undoubtedly have caught a glimpse of Becky's passion for the Bible. From weekly videos sharing encouragements from God's Word, to her latest book, *No Mountain Immovable: How to Activate Your Faith*, she has loved having the opportunity to use her gifts to inspire and encourage people around the world.

One of the questions we're asked the most at the moment is, 'what's Becky up to?' Honestly—we've been back and forth a lot, between considering jobs to help with the cost of living in the UK,

and taking a bit of a leap of faith, to concentrate more fully on expanding Becky's Bible Thoughts, and to allow more time for writing Bible studies, encouraging messages, and (hopefully!) more books.

In a step of faith in keeping with our journey, Becky is going to take some time to work on these projects. If you are interested in following along, receiving monthly encouraging blogs straight to your inbox and keeping up to date with upcoming books and resources, please do sign up to Becky's new Substack email newsletter here:

<https://beckywaterman.substack.com/>

We'd love to hear from you if you would like to have Becky come and speak at your church for an event or a Sunday morning. It could be as part of an update from us on the MAF front, or completely separate—whatever works best for you! Thank you again; life is an adventure of faith, and it's one that works best when we do it together!

## Can You Join the Adventure?

Our work with MAF continues to be funded by the sacrificial financial support of individuals, churches and groups. We really do value the giving that allows us to be a part of such a great work, reaching into the world with help, hope and healing. If you would like to make a monthly or a one-off donation to enable us to keep doing what we're doing, please do head to our page on the MAF website:

[www.maf-uk.org/waterman](http://www.maf-uk.org/waterman)

Thank you, yet again, for continuing to join us on this amazing adventure. It looks a bit different at the moment, and we're still not sure what the future holds, so your prayers and support encourage us more than we can say.

Love & Becky

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