



## WINTER, 2025 - NEWSLETTER



### THE CHALLENGE IN BRINGING CHANGE

If you managed to make it to one of our presentations this year, you'll know that a big part of Dave's new role within MAF is researching new technologies. It's amazing to see ideas like autonomous cargo carrying drones move outside of the realm of science fiction and into reality. These are not simply concepts anymore, but real products in use in the world today. It's great to consider how staying up to date with the latest developments in the world of aviation could help MAF to reach even further, expanding our reach and bringing help, hope and healing to even more isolated people groups.

But it's not as simple as picking a product off a shelf and starting to use it. Implementing any new technology requires a huge amount of research and effort, be it an autonomous aircraft, a new fuel source or a new type of plane.

**Practicality.** Perhaps the first area of consideration is how a product can actually be used. How much cargo can it carry? How far can it fly? Could it actually be used in a part of the world where the infrastructure is not as developed? From conversations and visits with developers, to detailed spreadsheets comparing range, capacity and many other factors, there is a lot to consider from the outset.

**Regulations.** Some of these technologies are at the forefront of aviation research today, and therefore it's not entirely clear how they are going to operate

from a regulatory standpoint. No country in the world has a finished set of regulations for the flying of autonomous aircraft, for example. That means that if this is a technology MAF decides to move ahead with, we would be helping to write those all important regulations, letting future air service providers know how to work with them.

**Safety.** We've all seen reports of technology hacks in the news; how do you prevent someone taking over a self-flying plane?

**Cost.** And, of course, how much would it cost to implement these brand new ideas? Are they something that could save money? Or do they simply offer a different type of service?

That's just scratching the surface! It's a long process, and we're always open to turning a new tech down if it doesn't fit. But it's great to be exploring how we could improve our reach, and considering what the future could look like.



Required research? How many engineers can you fit inside a cargo drone?



Dave in Papua New Guinea! Undertaking a research trip and feasibility study.



Exploring PNG by boat to consider where new technology could help in areas like agriculture and medical care.

### JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Thank you for your ongoing thoughts and prayers!

### PRAY...

- For Dave as he travels around Papua New Guinea on his research trip in December.
- For Becky, back in the UK in our temporary cottage.
- For a quick house sale and purchase in Ashford to give us a more stable base.
- For a restful Christmas holiday time with family.

### PRAISE...

- For some wonderful visits to churches and groups around the UK in the last couple of months.
- For somewhere to live! We are in a lovely cottage, with a rolling month contract.
- For a part time job for Becky, doing administration for a Christian charity.

### STAY IN TOUCH



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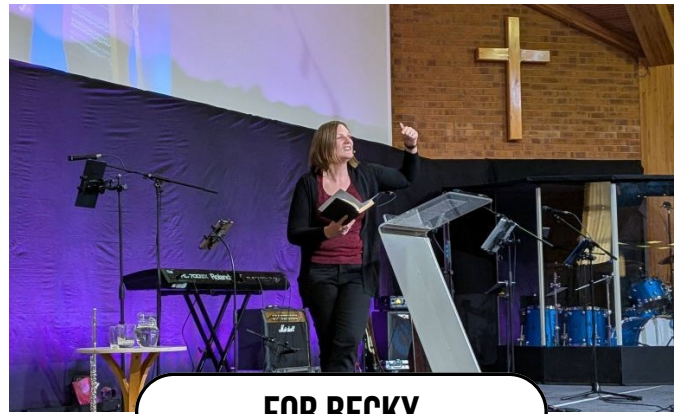


# FINDING A WORK / LIFE / RECOVERY BALANCE IN THE UK



## FOR DAVE

It would be possible for me to go to events showcasing some new technology or other almost every week. It has been great to get to visit various shows, and to join with groups like the Royal Aeronautical Society, to build industry connections useful for MAF, and to see what is out there. There are also many options for overseas trips in the next year, from feasibility studies through to seeing technology in action in countries similar to those we work within. Part of the challenge is working out what to say yes to, and when to take a slower pace, recognising that we are still very much getting used to life outside of Africa.



## FOR BECKY

I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to preach in a few of the churches we have visited, as well as talking about the work I was involved in overseas. I am hoping to have more chances for that teaching ministry as we move into a new year. To help pay the bills and give my weeks a bit more routine, I have also taken on a part time admin role with Love Early Years, an organisation supporting and encouraging Christians working in early years care and education. It's been great to have the opportunity to use some of my organisational skills to support that work, while still having time to think about writing my next book!



## A BUSY END TO THE YEAR

It's not been the most restful and relaxing end to the year for us. Ignoring the last minute inclusion of a two week trip to Papua New Guinea in December, we've also had a packed programme of presentations talking about our work with MAF and life overseas. And throw in the fun of moving out of our rental property after the owner decided to sell, putting half of our things into storage, and moving into a temporary rental property. All while navigating the complicated currents of selling the house we lived in before we moved overseas, and trying to buy a new house in Ashford, close to the MAF office.

And breathe! It has felt like a very busy few months, but it has also been such a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to so many of our wonderful supporters. Life is going to look a bit different for us as we settle into this next season, staying in the UK and putting down roots in the town of Ashford, so it has been a real blessing receiving the prayers and encouragement of so many.

We are looking forward to a two week break over the Christmas holiday, where we will be able to spend some time with family, and also have a week in our little cottage home with a roaring fire, and time to think about what 2026 may bring. It is always a reassurance to know that we may not know the details of what will be coming, but we serve a God who does! He has a plan and a purpose for all of us, and we pray that you would feel the peace of his good promises to you as we enter into another new year.

### Support Raising

Now we've reached the end of the year, Dave has transitioned to a salaried position within MAF International. We are aiming to offset that cost to MAF as much as possible, to enable both his work, and the wider work of MAF to continue in a time where costs are high. If you are able to make a monthly or one-off donation to help support Dave's ongoing work, please head to our page on the MAF website:

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

Thank you once again for walking with us on this amazing adventure. We wouldn't be here without your ongoing thoughts, prayers and support. Wishing you a wonderful, restful and blessed Christmas time.

*Dave & Becky*

**MAF UK**

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MAF UK is a registered Charity in England & Wales (1064598) and in Scotland (SC039107)

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