



Matt & Becki Dillingham in Tanzania



Partnering with Pamoja

MAF have a long-running partnership with 'Help for the Maasai', which brings a medical clinic into remote villages in the north of Tanzania. Nurses from the hospital in Malambo fly with us and give vaccinations to young children, check-ups to pregnant women and educate the community about women's rights (see our September prayer letter for more details). A chance meeting with the dad of one of the children in Luke's class provided an opportunity to fly medical professionals from the clinic (Pamoja) that he works for. Pamoja already provide outreach clinics in towns within a 2 hour drive from Arusha but he was keen to provide this healthcare specialism to people living in remote areas further away. When he heard about MAF and our experience serving the community in Malambo, his hope became reality.

In her role as Operations Manager in Chad, Becki spent a lot of time trying to organise a medical clinic with different specialists on board. In the end, we left before the project got up and running so it was nice to have the opportunity to do a similar thing in Tanzania. Within a matter of weeks of that conversation with Park, Becki flew the Pamoja team to Malambo. Along with Park (ENT specialist), there was a knee/joint specialist, a paediatric consultant, an ophthalmologist, a pharmacist, a GP, a dentist and 2 nurses on the flight.

Word spread amongst the community that a clinic was happening that would help people with many different conditions, rather than the regular monthly clinic for mamas. They were hoping to serve 500 people over two days. A volunteer for Help for the Maasai who lives in the area was doubtful that so many people would come. The aircraft landed in the afternoon on the 28th November and the team immediately began to see patients. A total of 186 people were seen that day, with people having travelled long distances to have the opportunity to be seen. Many of these people would not have the means to pay, or be able to travel to Arusha for healthcare. So without this free clinic, people would just live with pain or disability. The team flew to Malambo for the night and returned the next morning. On the second day they saw 650 people. They were able to do health screening on school children, allowing early intervention for eyesight problems for example. Elderly patients, who were struggling to walk were able to see the knee specialist, who gave them cortisone injections which will provide relief over the next few months.

The number of people who travelled for this clinic shows the need for medical care in remote regions and, with the Caravan, MAF are able to transport large teams with a variety of specialisms. It is hoped that the success of this first clinic will result in a smaller team from Pamoja joining our regular medical safaris to give continued access to medical services beyond mama and baby healthcare..

Park and his family have since returned to South Korea so we are thankful that his vision became a reality before he left. God's timing was perfect as, in the past, MAF wouldn't have had the capacity to put on a flight for such a big team but the Caravan has opened up opportunities to bring help, hope and healing to more people in more places.



(Top left): Health checks for school children (Top right) Dr Park diagnosing patients with hearing problems.

(Bottom): The medical team from Pamoja clinic together with some volunteers from Help for the Maasai.

Family News

We are expecting our 3rd child in March 2026. Our intention is to give birth in Arusha, remain here when the baby is born and during Becki's maternity leave. We are all looking forward to the new arrival and Bethan and Luke are excited to be having a new brother or sister! Unlike in Madagascar (when she was pregnant with Luke), Becki has been allowed to continue flying while pregnant. That permission expires at the end of December so last week's medical safari out of Dodoma was her last flight for a while. In the new year she will continue in her role as operations manager until the baby is born.

Praise

- * We are thankful for our loyal financial and prayer supporters who partner with us to bring help, hope and healing to people in Tanzania.
- * The successful collaboration between MAF and Pamoja clinic saw over 800 people treated in 2 days.
- * Tanzania is peaceful and planned protests on Independence day did not materialise.

Prayer

- * Safe delivery of our baby without complications during the last months of pregnancy or the birth.
- * MAF Tanzania will find people to cover Becki's roles while she is on maternity leave and another family are on home assignment.

Bethan's Blog

In October we went to Mafia island, which is off the coast of Tanzania near Dar es Salaam. Mum and Dad thought we should take the opportunity to go snorkelling before the baby comes. Whale sharks are often seen around the island so we did a boat trip. After a few hours it looked like we wouldn't see one but I decided to go for a swim anyway. Dad jumped in after me and right below him was a huge whale shark. We swam with him for a while but it was hard to keep up with him. I'm enjoying year 9, one of the best things was sports day where I got a school record for running 1500m.

A Letter from Luke

We had our church carol service recently and we performed a shadow play of the Nativity with the other children in our group. Lots of people said it was the highlight of the whole service. I was an angel (can you see me and Bethan in the picture?). Our friends are coming to stay with us for Christmas. They lived in Chad when we were there but now they live in Wales. I'm looking forward to seeing them and am excited about it being nearly Christmas.



We wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!