



Matt & Becki Dillingham in Tanzania

Kilimatinde Safari with a Cessna Caravan

The Kilimatinde safari operates out of the capital of Tanzania, Dodoma. It is a monthly evangelical and medical safari in central Tanzania. MAF takes evangelists and pastors from Dodoma as well as medical staff from Kilimatinde hospital to remote villages in the area. During the week-long safari, the passengers visit a different village each day and return to Dodoma each evening.

The medical team provide a day-long clinic at each location, to offer basic health care services to the communities that live in isolated regions with no easy access to health care. To reach even this remote clinic, most mothers walk for many hours, carrying their babies on their backs in the hope of life-saving early childhood vaccines. Pendo Robert is the mother of 4 children. She walked 5 hours to come to the mobile clinic with her baby daughter. She explained that the nearest hospital is a 12 hour walk or 1.5 hours by motorbike, but this is expensive and impossible during rainy season.

The pastors and evangelists fly into the communities to serve their spiritual needs and spread the Gospel, discipling the new believers and reaching the next generation. The evangelists will always take time to visit the local school, which greatly encourages the students, who rarely get visitors from Dodoma.

Under the cool shade of the aircraft's wing, pastors gather children together to hear the Good News and they come alongside believers in the villages to teach them more about the word of God. It is common for Pastors to baptise people by the aircraft with bottled drinking water, as the natural water sources are far from the airstrip.

Pastor Peter William Fumbi, a church leader from Dodoma explains MAF's role. "If this service was not here, many children's lives would be lost. Since 2006, countless children have received medical care and many villagers have heard the Gospel". In the absence of a local church, the monthly safari is extremely important for these communities. Pastor Peter concluded, "Without MAF, the gospel can't reach Chidudu (one of the villages they visit)"

April's Kilimatinde safari was a special one because it was the first to be done with MAF Tanzania's new aircraft - the Cessna 208 Caravan. The Caravan has 11 seats (compared to 6 in the 206) which makes a huge difference to this safari as Pastor Imanuel Swai explained: "Before, we needed to fly two trips to get both teams to the village. Now we can all make it there with a single flight (giving the team more time on the ground). We will benefit from this bigger aeroplane."

Henry and Ruth Kambenga, the organisers of this outreach, had requested an opportunity to gather their team of pastors and evangelists at Dodoma airport before departing on the first flight. The small crowd gathered around the aircraft to dedicate it to service, singing and praying over future possibilities that will serve isolated communities.

Becki and Peter Griffin shared the flying for this particular safari. On board were a team of medical professionals, as well as another team of pastors and evangelists. During their return flight to Dodoma, Rev. Lodom Taxson Mwakyambo reflected: "Our team – as well as the people living here in the village – are very happy". He added, "May God continue to bless the work of MAF and all who are involved to bless this community."

For almost 20 years, the people of Chidudu, Mahaka and other villages continue to rely on MAF's unique ability to reach the unreachable. Through the combined efforts of pilots, health professionals, and evangelists, these safaris save lives, nurture faith, and build a brighter future.



Credit: Parts of this text are from a story written by Paivi Griffin for MAF International.

(Top left): John Nhahugi being baptised in the village of Mahaka. (Top right) Flying over "Lion rock" in Dodoma, a spot where lions used to look out over the plains before it became engulfed by the city.

(Bottom): The dedication service for the Caravan before departing Dodoma.

Training Complete

In April, we welcomed a visitor from MAF Uganda who came to give Becki some training on flying into the most difficult strips (c-strips). Martin Zimmerman was a MAF pilot in

Tanzania previously, so has plenty of knowledge to share. Some of the villages that MAF fly into, for the evangelical and medical safaris, are on the sides of mountains, which presents challenges. For example, you can only approach the strip at Piyaya from one direction. Olemilei is the most difficult as it has a steep turn before a short final approach onto a sloping runway cut into the mountain. In one direction, the abort point (the last point where you can choose to go-around) is before you have reached the runway. Beyond that point you are committed to landing as the surrounding terrain makes it impossible to climb out again. At the un-regulated village strips that MAF fly into, it is fairly common for children or animals to run across the airstrip just as the aircraft is landing. On an A/B strip, you can increase the power and go-around but that option is not possible in some of these C-strips.

"It was a pleasure to fly with Martin, who helped me a lot - not only with the c-strips but also with the Cessna 206, which I hadn't flown very much before he arrived. I have since flown into these strips with passengers and although I don't like landing there very much, it is becoming easier."

A week later, Becki went to Uganda for another week of training with Martin at the MAF training base there. The purpose of this training was to become a "check pilot" on the Caravan, which would allow her to carry out base-checks on the other MAF Tanzania pilots. As a check pilot you need to have in-depth knowledge of all the aircraft systems so there was lots to learn and she had to give a presentation at the end. Part of a base-check is to simulate emergency situations and see how the pilot reacts so she gave Martin (pilot being assessed) a scenario of a gold-smuggling hijacker to deal with! Becki successfully passed the training and has now finished all the required training and assessments, which have been on-going since we arrived in Tanzania. She is happy to now be able to concentrate on her job as pilot and operations manager.



(Left) Becki with Martin and (Right) The airstrip at Olemilei

Home Assignment 2025

Our home assignment planning has been left to the last-minute this year as we have had to wait on various things before we could confirm dates. Together with a very busy couple of months means we haven't been in touch with churches and supporters as much as we should have done.

We will be in the UK from 11th July, spending the first 2 weeks in the south west of England. We will then travel up to the north east of England for a week's holiday, before we stay in Bath and finally Dorset before returning to Tanzania on August 16th.

We are experimenting with a different approach to home assignment this year. To reduce our travelling and the number of different places we stay, we have booked accommodation for longer periods, in areas that accessible to the majority of our supporters. So you are very welcome to visit us in St Mawes (Cornwall), Milton Combe (Devon), Bath (Avon) or Wimborne (Dorset).

Church services

Sunday 13th July: 10:30am - Martock Christian Fellowship, Martock, TA12 6JN Sunday 20th July: 10:30am - St Andrews, Buckland Monachorum, PL20 7LZ Sunday 20th July: 6:30pm - Emmanuel Church, Plymouth, PL3 5BZ Sunday 27th July: 10:30am - Bovey Baptist Church, Bovey Travey, TQ13 9HT Sunday 27th July: 6.00pm - St Thomas' Baptist Church, Exeter, EX4 1LZ Sunday 10th August: 10.30am - Bristol Road Baptist Church, Weston Super Mare, BS23 2QS (unconfirmed) Sunday 10th August 6pm - Rosemary Lane Chapel, Clayhaddon, EX15 3PQ Praise

* The Caravan has been flying in Tanzania for the last 2 months, allowing MAF to serve existing partners in new ways and bringing new opportunities to serve people living in remote locations.

* Becki completed her C-strip training and can now fly into all the airstrips that MAF use. With chief pilot Mark leaving in April, this was essential to allow our monthly medical and evangelical safaris to continue to operate.

* Our permits were issued and our shipment arrived at the end of March (on a MAF flight from Uganda) so we have been able to set up our home.

* In May we were thankful that our colleague in MAF Chad, Phil Henderson could visit the Tanzania program to do some supervised flying with pilot Peter Griffin. He took some time off from his role working at a school in Kenya to help us, which was a great blessing.

Prayer

* The doctor treating Neema after she was savagely attacked by a hyena, is negotiating with the hospital in Dodoma for him to be able to come and do her follow-up surgery. He is asking them to cover his costs and sponser his work permit. Please pray for a successful outcome.)

* Becki is looking into how we can expand our operations, seeking out new partners who we can serve alongside our regular safaris. This week Becki met with Water Mission to

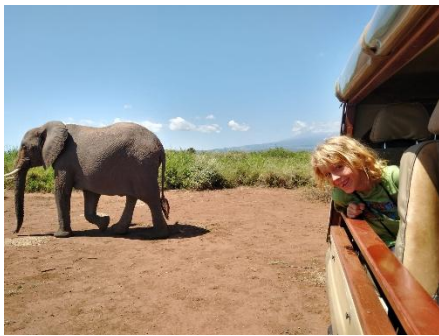
see if MAF can help them in their mission to bring clean water and sanitation to every person in Tanzania.

* The MAF TZ program will be understaffed in July and August as program manager Stewart is on home assignment and Becki will also be away for 5 weeks. Pray for the rest of the team as they take on additional roles and responsibilities.



Bethan's Blog

At school I've been enjoying doing cross-country, especially when we had an inter-school competition and I finished 6th in my age-group. Dad and I did a 5km run to raise money for the maternity hospital where we go to church. We ran with our friends from MAF and at the end I got a medal. In 2 weeks we are flying to England. I'm looking forward to seeing my cousins and friends again and having ice cream.



A Letter from Luke

Last month we drove to Kenya for a holiday with our friends from Chad. We stayed in a really cool campsite for 3 days. Austin and I spent ages starting fires with a magnifying glass. One day we woke up early and went on a safari – we saw elephants, zebras and giraffe and other animals. On the drive back to

Arusha we decided to drive the other way around Mount Kilimanjaro, which wasn't a good idea as the road was very bad and a light fell off our car.