



## Hello everyone!

I hope you're well.

After talking about and planning my trip to Wichita, Kansas, for such a long time, it seems a bit surreal that it's now been and gone and I need to write this newsletter to let you all know what happened. I've been back in Uganda for a couple of weeks now and I finally feel like life is back on an even keel, so it's about time that I caught you up with how the trip went.

I left Uganda on the 12th of April, flying via Brussels and Chicago before finally arriving in Wichita after nearly 28 hours of travel. Thankfully, I was travelling with one of our Ugandan engineers, named David, who was also going to the same training centre for another course. However he would only stay for one week and then return back to Uganda while I completed my training.

The course that I had travelled all that distance to attend was an Airframe and Engine type course for the Cessna Caravan. The course was conducted by a company called Flight Safety International and they are the preferred training supplier, that Textron, who manufacture the Cessna Caravan, approve to provide training for pilots and engineers that operate that aircraft type.

Also, Wichita is the home of Cessna, so if you're going to go anywhere to learn about a Cessna aircraft there is nowhere better to go than Wichita, Kansas.



Over the three week course the instructors went into every system on the aircraft in great detail, and explained how they work, what problems we are likely to encounter with each system during a maintenance check, and any safety precautions that we need to be aware of when working on the aircraft. To

help us understand the information they were showing us, they also had parts of the aircraft and engine that we could look at and go and practice on. On one particular day, we spent most of an afternoon taking different parts of the PT6 engine apart, which was really interesting.

At the end of each of the major parts of the course, we had to sit an exam to make sure we had understood everything that had been taught. Thankfully, after a bit of study in my hotel room each night, I passed all three of the exams, which was a big relief.

The training that I received was a huge blessing, and you could certainly tell why Flight Safety are considered the best people to train with for these aircraft. I definitely feel the training I received will allow me to be a blessing to the MAF programmes that I will serve in.

Over the two weekends that I was in Wichita I managed to get out and about a bit to see the town and visit a local church, which was great. One Sunday I was even invited by a couple from the church to go with them to a Vietnamese restaurant, which I really enjoyed.



Left: is the 'Keeper of the Plains' statue and Exploration Center in downtown Wichita.



Although the course was fantastic, being away from Steph and the girls for three weeks was pretty tough. I couldn't wait to get back to Uganda to see them again. I think it was particularly tough for Steph as well because while I was away she had to endure several long power cuts before we could get our new inverter system up and running.

On the way home I was delayed leaving Chicago due to bad weather, so I missed my connection in Brussels. That meant to get back to Uganda I had to go via Istanbul and Kigali, which totalled 30 hours of travel and an arrival back home at 5am in the morning on the 6th of May, which was Raya's Birthday! She was very glad that Dad made it back in time to wake her up on her Birthday, even if he went straight to bed after breakfast!

Over the next couple of days I took some time off to spend time with Steph and the girls and we are now back into a normal routine.

However, it's not long now before we will be coming back to the UK to see you all!

If you want to catch up with us while we are back in the UK, this is where we will be and when:

- Speaking at Hope Church, Luton, on Sunday 30th of June.
- Speaking at All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, on the 7th July.
- Speaking at St Andrews Church, Cheam, on Sunday 14th June.

We will also be attending, but not speaking at, Ascot Life Church on Sunday the 4th of August.

During our home leave we will also be visiting the following places, so if you would like to go for a coffee with us during this time please let us know:

Lincoln - 17th to 20th June & 22nd to 26th July

Folkestone - 15th to 19th July

Ascot - 8th to 10th July

Looking forward to seeing some of you soon!

Mark

### **Prayer Points**

Please pray that:

- We would have a good time of preparation before returning to the UK for home leave.
- That travel back to the UK would be smooth and no bags would get lost (like they did when we came to Uganda) !

### **Praise God**

Give thanks that:

- We are feeling very settled in our new house.
  - Mark passed all the exams on his course and returned back to the Uganda safely.
  - It's not long now before we can return back to the UK to catch up with friends and family!
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