

Christmas greetings, friends!



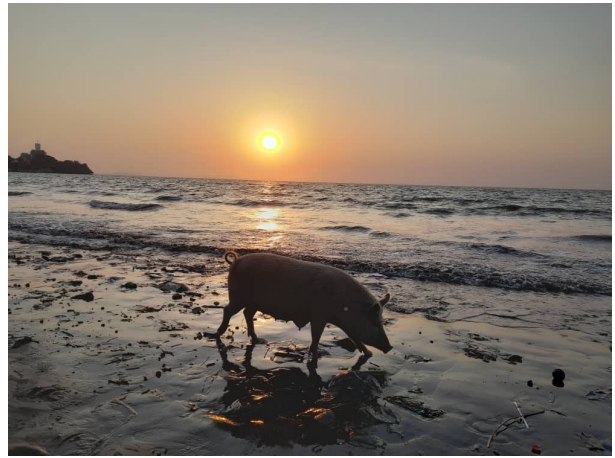
One star burns in the darkness,
shines with the promise,
Emmanuel.

One child, born in the stillness,
living within us,
Emmanuel.

We're singing Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace, let there be peace
Singing Glory, Glory. let there be peace
Let it start in me.
(Glory, Matt Maher)

I have just finished the term at school with a lovely nativity service, where the beautiful words above were sung angelically by our Grade 3–5 choir. Christmas preparations for me this year have included learning new things such as pierogi making with Canadian friends, as well as the more traditional (for me) gingerbread with kids on the compound. Last weekend I joined the MAF team here to celebrate Christmas with games, riddles, praise, dancing and goat stew. Meanwhile, John's in his last few days training team members in Guinea, West Africa where he has been for five weeks. It has been both encouraging for the team there, and for John, who has enjoyed supporting in this way. He's also enjoyed evening walks on the beach, sometimes accompanied by a pig or two! This weekend, John will be back in Juba and we will attend the Watoto Cantata, always a brilliant, loud and visually amazing retelling in scripture and song (and sometimes with a live goat or lamb) of the Christmas story by the church here. Then on Christmas Eve, with Sarah who arrives from Germany to join us for the holidays, we will gather with our friends on the compound for a time of carols, readings and Christmas baking.





There will be a newsletter out early in 2025, full of stories, praise and prayer.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we want to thank you for your support of our work with MAF this year, including our partnerships that help to bring peace to individuals and their communities.

This Christmas, may you and your families know joy and peace.
In 2025, wherever we are in this world, 'let there be peace, and let it begin with me.'

With our gratitude and love, John and Tracey xx