



FLYING FOR LIFE
SINCE 1945

Prayer Thanks and Update



Cosy classroom; home learning in Egypt; JCA - Nairobi Campus Class

Dear friends,

Thanks so much for praying for us since my last email five weeks ago which prompted many of you to send words of encouragement and reminders of your prayers for South Sudan and ourselves following the escalation of the security situation that necessitated relocation of MAF families to Kenya.

Over the last weeks, I have been thankful to have had my lovely neighbours change neighbourhood with me; to be placed in a part of Nairobi I am familiar with; and to have purpose: I have been hosting a morning of school every weekday for the MAF Juba children aged 3-10, supporting them emotionally and spiritually through this time of transition, keeping up with learning, and some special 'fun' weekly workshops too in a community building on the MAF Kenya compound. It is amazing how quickly the 'schoolroom' came together with lovely toys, a cosy corner for reflection and reading and many materials to get creative with, even a log fire on those chilly mornings. I have found ways to keep in touch with JCA staff and families spread over 5 countries, as well as supporting them all with home learning too.



At first, the sense of grief was hard for us all who had suddenly left Juba. We lived day by day with the uncertainty in that first week, worrying for our friends and communities we serve, missing our routines and the adaptations to life we have become used to in Juba to live well there, and adjusting to the different way of living here in Nairobi, not knowing what the next month or so would hold. It was also a time where every family suffered sickness. Then gradually, we moved to beginning to look ahead a week, finding ways to embrace this time, learning to live in the waiting. For example, I was able to catch up with others usually in based in South Sudan whom it is often hard to meet when we are there – so we caught up over coffee and shared news, experiences, hopes and fears, and our faith in God. It also meant buying second-hand clothes suitable for the cold wet weather! Pilots began to work on rotation so families had time together too.

Above: stained glass window at the convent I stayed in for first two weeks in Nairobi; John and the international team in Juba

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brought a man with a gunshot wound to Juba for treatment, taken cholera vaccines to clinics overwhelmed by the current cholera outbreak affecting 49,000 people. He and the small international team in Juba, alongside our dedicated and resilient national colleagues, worked with an extreme level of intensity. The Holy Spirit

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During this time, MAF organised flights for our partner ACROSS to take urgently needed supplies, seen here in the freight room with John and Juma, to tackle an outbreak of cholera in Pibor. Pilots Daniel and Ide took two doctors and nearly two tons of essential medicines, water purification tablets, and medical consumables including gloves to Pibor, in the east of South Sudan

After 3 weeks, John was able to join me in Nairobi for Easter weekend. We worship at a lovely church here in Nairobi which always gives us a chance to become absorbed in worship and is a source of encouragement, inspiration and challenge. During this season, we have seen that:

MAF flights really are vital! When there is a risk that flights might stop, or are reduced, the need becomes so much more apparent, some of our partners would have to stop their operations too. John was having to ask the question daily 'is this an essential flight?' and we realised anew that even our most routine flights often are essential! We are serving in South Sudan because MAF really does bring hope, help and healing to people in this nation coping with a severe cholera outbreak, unimaginable humanitarian need, a continuing influx of traumatised refugees. These 'crises' all continue –and are exacerbated further – when a military/political conflict is added.

God shows up: Amazing to hear of the personal testimonies how God has reached out through this season, an active presence amongst us.

God prepared us: At JCA, I realised how God has inspired so much of what we do over the last few years and that this has truly grown resilience of our children. It is no accident that the songs we sing focus on life-change and God as constant; that we have strength in community and have been able to continue with familiar routines etc

What a privilege prayer is, even when we have no words of our own. We've drawn our prayers, recited familiar prayers, sat with each other quietly, knowing that people around the world are praying for our home, our neighbours, the communities we serve, us, and have seen some answer to prayer too.

Throughout all of this, our South Sudanese colleagues have been truly inspirational. Many have traumatic experiences in previous conflicts and through hardship; the escalation had brought these experiences to the surface. Nobody wants a return to war. They have kept serving whole heartedly.



Above: Ide, Evelyn and Moro continuing to serve; a preschooler drawing her prayers

Currently, the situation in Juba is relatively stable. Our flights from Nairobi to South Sudan are now seeing our partner organisations return to their homes and work. MAF families are also now returning to their homes in Juba and school will reopen for Term 3 as scheduled; things that seemed unlikely a few weeks ago! John and I are now taking some delayed holiday in Kenya before returning home next week: a train ride, sand between toes, a dip in the ocean, some deep reviving sleep, a chance to talk through our recent experiences together, in person.

Thank you, for your prayers, your support, your encouragement. As we look ahead, **please pray particularly for:**

- A **decrease in crime**, which seems to have escalated in the city during this season, particularly **protection for our South Sudanese colleagues** who are often targeted as working for an organisation like ours that pays well.

- A **good and lasting resolution** to the political differences, particularly between resident Salva Kiir and the Opposition,

and for a commitment to walk the difficult path towards peace by all in positions of power

- **Peace** for the team as we return to this fragile nation, and for **our own family** in UK/Germany in their concern for us and support of where we are and what we do.

