



Tracey and John's
Journal from Juba (and Ampthill!)
 The Feils serving with MAF South Sudan
Status October 2024: Honey and Home Issue 18



Healing and Hope for Honey Harvester

Maridi is a small town in the midst of forest known for its excellent honey. In recent separate visits, both John and I returned with 5l jerry cans full of this thick amber nectar. During my visit as part of a peace and reconciliation team, I met Pastor Elisama who was an active participant in the Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations workshop we were running for church leaders in the diocese. As a rural dean for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Pastor Elisama cares for 3000 people across five parishes. On the last day, my colleague Thomas Titus told me that Elisama had a story to tell me. He began by taking off his jacket and showing me his left arm. It was so badly broken it looked like he had an extra joint between his shoulder and elbow. He was in constant pain and described it as feeling loose. Two years ago, deep in the forest and many miles from home, a branch gave way whilst he was high up in a tree whilst harvesting honey (photo of traditional hive right, middle), which is the way he earned money to help feed his family and pay their school fees. He fell to the forest floor. By the time he regained consciousness, it was early evening. The walk home in the dark injured and on foot took many hours. Treatment locally failed and eventually he resigned himself to the immobility and pain of his arm. Thomas and I prayed with him and I left Maridi deeply moved by his situation and wondered if MAF could be part of the answer to our prayers that day. So I took his story back to the team at the MAF office.



The following week, my MAF colleague Jaap arranged for Elisama to be on a flight to Juba for medical investigation, saving him the discomfort of a two day journey by road. MAF were able to help Elisama arrange an operation to realign the bones and secure them with plates and screws.



Elisama is now recovering and is so thankful for the help, healing and hope MAF have helped to provide. He says: 'I benefitted the most from the [peace and reconciliation] training because I received healing twice - not only did I receive spiritual healing from the MAF training, but I got physical healing too!' He's looking forward to being back home pastoring his people.



Moments from Maridi

In August, I spent a week in Maridi as part of the team facilitating on the Healing Hearts Transforming Nations workshop for about 90 pastor couples (180 people in total, more than 3 times as many people we usually host the workshop for!), representing nine different ethnic groups. One pastor, in closing said, 'I have war in my heart for so long, But last night, there was no war in me.'



A muddy landing



In the shade of teak trees



Carrying our pain to the Cross



Cathedral prayers announced by beating a hollow log



Perching to pray



The team

Accommodation



Taking tea in the market to shelter from rain



Modelling asking for forgiveness





Flooded

During our time in the UK, Bedfordshire – where we were based – faced unprecedented flooding with a local main road turning into a river and being closed for almost 2 weeks causing much disruption. The emergency services supported people in trouble and insurance companies picked up the tab for many as the water subsided and normal life resumed. Meanwhile in South Sudan, floods have now affected over 1 million people across 41 counties, and causing 25% of them to be displaced as they seek higher ground (OCHA), making it one of the worst flood seasons that the nation has experienced in recent decades. (Photo from our MAF pilot friend, lisaaki). Please pray for those affected by flooding; pray for the agencies responding especially as supply routes are affected; and pray that our flights can bring the help that is needed.



Encouraged and refreshed!

Our UK time was both encouraging and busy, covering over 800 miles and sleeping in 15 different beds!

Favourite transport? Steam train

Made us smile? Kites, swings and seesaws with our granddaughters

Best night? Dancing at Beth and Josh's wedding celebration!

Best meal? So many to choose from: Steak and ale pie, fish and chips by the sea, Chris's roast, Alex's curry, that cream tea???

Bravest moment? John's sea swim... 'It's not as warm as Kenya!'

Packed in the suitcase to take back? Motorbike parts, cheese, chocolate!

We enjoyed sharing MAF's work in Cranfield, Ampthill, Flitwick, Bletchley and Sidmouth, warmly welcomed wherever we went. We are always delighted and encouraged by the connections we find: the worship leader who told us MAF saved her young brother's life in Congo in the early 1990s; the gentleman who shared how he helped build Mundri airstrip in the 1980s; a lady who had heard about Maridi before; the minister leading the harvest service for our granddaughter's school who will be travelling to Juba again in January (and now has an invite to dinner with us). And we were delighted to have former colleagues come especially to attend services! Thank you if you came and listened, shared, asked questions, fed us, gave us a bed and shared your home, encouraged us or prayed with us and for us. It means so much to us!



If we missed seeing you, you can catch up online by following these links:

[Click here watch our Partnership video for 2024](#)

[Click here to watch the service from All Saints, Sidmouth 8th Sept 10.30am](#)

[Click here to watch the service from Ampthill Baptist Church 29 Sept 10.45am](#)

Four organisations and four flights help one beautiful baby



Recently, MAF alongside four amazing partner organisations exemplified what it means to work together to help a baby in a remote location. Three months ago, **EVERY VILLAGE** met baby Nyandit in a village and arranged for her to receive a blood transfusion at the hospital in Tonj run by **IN DEED AND TRUTH (IDAT)**. She, along with her mother Monika were then brought on a MAF flight with an IDAT doctor who ensured her vitals were strong during the flight. After medical assessments in Juba at the **USRATUNA CENTER**, she was referred for life-saving treatment in Uganda. Thanks to a partnership between Ustratuna, MAF and the CURE Uganda, Nyandit and her mum were able to take another flight with MAF along with seven other babies, this time down to Uganda for pioneering procedure performed by the amazing team at

the **CURE UGANDA** children's hospital there. Nyandit received aftercare back in Juba and has now bene flown back to Tonj, reunited with her family in the village. This is all possible because of **YOUR** support of MAF – thanks so much for beign part of the team. What a great reminder of how we can have life transforming impact when we work in **partnership**. [If you have FaceBook you can click to hear pilot lisaaki reflect on this flight.](#)

ELECTION UPDATE: The government of South Sudan have announced a further delay of 2 years to the elections originally timetabled for December 2024. Whilst this is a relief in some ways, it reflects the lack of progress by institutions towards the peace process.

Juba Christian Academy

Term has started well at JCA, and I am grateful to those who have covered for the first few weeks of term, whilst I have been in the UK. We have a lovely new preschool class and employed a new South Sudanese assistant, Miss Diana.

Are you, or someone you know, being called to support the work of mission organisations in South Sudan by teaching at JCA?

We continue to have urgent need for this school year 2024-2025 and beyond and have **NO current leads** for teachers or an administrator for the future.

Please pray for at least one brilliant primary teacher to join our team.

If you are interested in teaching at JCA, I would love to chat with you.

[Click here to view teaching opportunities](#) [Click here to find out more about our school](#)



Pray with us

John returned to Juba as scheduled at the beginning of October. I stayed on a bit longer for some unexpected medical investigations. I am happy to have now had the 'all clear' and have a flight booked for later this week. John and I have been blessed by two communities, Juba and Ampthill, caring for us over the last month, and we are overwhelmed by the kindness and support we have received. Ampthill Baptist Church provided me office space so I have been able to work for MAF/JCA remotely. We have certainly prayed for God's will to be done and I am delighted to be able to return to the work we have been called to. We are looking forward to serving together for a few weeks in Juba in November before John travels to Guinea, for over a month to support the MAF program there. We are so thankful for your prayers for us, this work and this nation. May His kingdom come, His will be done.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Email:

john.feil@mafint.org

tracey.feil@mafint.org

www.facebook.com/groups/JohnAndTracey

Whatsapp:

+447531525022 (Tracey)

Postal address:

Mission Aviation Fellowship – Kenya

ATTN: John & Tracey FEIL - SSD

Wilson Airport,

P.O. Box 21123

00505 Nairobi, Kenya.

If you would like to support the work of MAF in South Sudan, we would **love** to have you on our team. This work is only possible because of the financial gifts and prayers of people like you.

[You can sign up to partner with us by clicking here, Thank you!](#)