



The view from here

We love a good view, maybe appreciated more these days as we live within a walled compound where the concept of a view is limited! During August, we were able to take a week's holiday near Nanyuki, Kenya. At sunrise, the view of Mount Kenya, with wild plains in the foreground, was wonderful.



This September marks 5 years of living and serving in Juba, South Sudan. As we look at the 'view' back over the last 5 years, it is a remarkable, humbling vista!

There have been truly beautiful times, such as seeing babies transformed by health care accessed because of a MAF flight; women who suffer unimaginable trauma, able to bring their pain to the cross and dance with renewed hope; 'big' men courageously choosing humility to stand in the gap and confess the sins of their people; times of fun and hospitality with our neighbours and friends; the successful rescue of a stuck plane; a growing school which children love to attend.

When you look back closely at a view of where you have already been, you notice the cliffs, steep slopes, uneven ground and obstacles that were faced - there have also been hard times. Continued fighting around the country; loss when friends leave; being far from family at times of joy and grief; medevacs that didn't bring the healing we prayed that they would; the immense humanitarian challenges that our colleagues and friends face daily. It is a journey that has made us weary and sometimes bruised us as well as one that we have loved and flourished in.

When looking back from a distance, there is a fresh perspective to be gained too, one we might not have noticed when our eyes were fixed on the path right in front of us. We notice where God met us, where He carried us, where He provided for us, where He led us.

It's hard to imagine that 5 years ago, this was '*the great unknown where feet may fail*' that required a step of faith to '*trust without borders*.'* We look back with so much gratitude - what a privilege to live and serve in this place, with MAF's provision and support, but most importantly, with our God who led us here and led us through.

Lyrics from *Oceans, Hillsong United*, which we sang at our commissioning service in September 2020.



The sun is now setting on our time in South Sudan; **we will leave our home and program here at the end of October, returning to settle again in the UK in mid-November.** This was a decision we made over a year ago and, whilst we trust that this is right for us at this time, there is also a huge sense of loss as we leave this nation, its people, our work, our friends, and a place we love deeply. Before we leave, John will spend a month in Guinea supporting the MAF program there. Malony now has a great deputy in place as well as Julie as Ops co-ordinator; we are so thankful John has been able to handover Juba Ops to a great South Sudanese team. At JCA, there is no-one for me to hand over to yet, but teachers are better equipped to serve the children, with a clear curriculum and pedagogy that can stand well until someone else arrives to carry on this valuable work. I'll be at school part-time for the first half term ensuring all is running smoothly. There's also one more opportunity for me to facilitate on a peace and reconciliation workshop, here in Juba. There are a lot of practical arrangements to be made for another international transition. We will be packing up our house, saying goodbyes, ensuring we leave well - both practically and emotionally.

So, what does the view look like into the future?

Well, quite similar to this photo currently, taken in the rain cloud at the Great Rift Valley Escarpment! What we do know is that we continue to work with MAF until mid February 2026, as we resettle into the UK. We will be moving back to Ampthill, where we have a house. We are looking forward to spending time with family, eating cheese, and British seasons - though I am not sure how we will cope with a cold, dark winter initially! We will hopefully meet with you - our supporters - and speak at your churches and groups in early 2026. Please let me know if you'd be interested in hosting us to share our work with MAF.

We both strongly feel called to continue to serve MAF, but from a UK base for awhile, and there seems to be short-term work we can do which would be of value to MAF. I have been asked to write a program for children of MAF families preparing to move to overseas programs. This will be an 8-day course delivered in person as part of orientation for MAF families in March and July 2026. John is talking with MAF about opportunities to support operations in various programs and 'stand in the gap' as needed.

So whilst we don't know exactly what it will look like, we hope to be able to live in trust through 2026 so we can respond to MAF's needs in the short-term, where it is felt we are a good fit. Therefore, we wonder if you would consider continuing to support MAF in our name for the coming year. If you have any questions or want further clarity, please contact our support/partnership manager, Adam Pope (MAFUK) by emailing adam.pope@maf-uk.org.

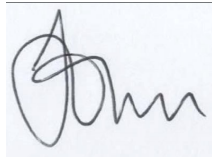
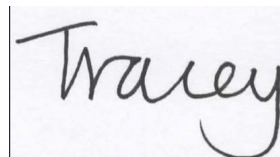
A guide through the wilderness

When we left our base in the wilderness, north of Nanyuki, two things helped us. Firstly a boda-boda driver met us at our camp and showed us the way out to a rough road. We just had to look ahead a short way and keep our eyes fixed on him. Our lovely host, Dickson, knew a better route for an area not clearly covered by Google Maps, so he drew us a sketch map to help us on our way: general sense of direction, a few milestones in place to set us on our way. It's the same for our journey: we have a few things sketched out to get us going! But mainly, we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and follow His lead, one step at a time.



There will be one more issue of Journal from Juba before we leave, updating you on the program and to 'round off' our time serving here. Your interest, encouragement, financial support and prayer have been so important to our service in this place. If you're a praying person, we appreciate those spoken on our behalf as we go through this season of transition.

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", on a white background.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey", on a white background.