



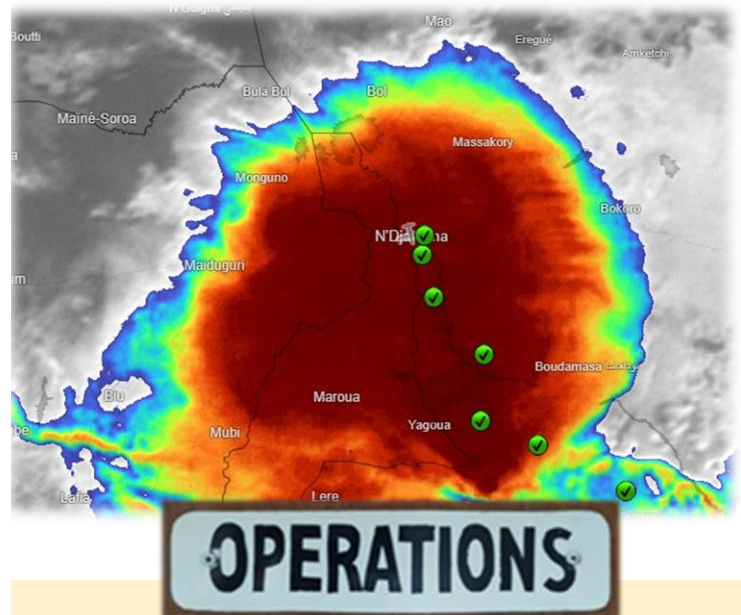
Tracey and John's Journal from Juba

The Feils serving with MAF South Sudan Status July 2024: A storm brewing? Issue 17



A storm brewing?

It's rainy season and whilst a good storm can bring relief with refreshing rain and cooler temperatures for us, the damage and disruption can be immense. It means hazardous flying conditions and disrupted schedules, leaving our valuable passengers briefly stranded at times! Recently, storms in Kenya led to the Chalbi desert becoming a vast lake, and crops and villages destroyed. The South Sudan team supported, sending a plane and pilots (including Captain Jono) to help the disaster response work in the region. Recently, the UN special representative summarised South Sudan as 'the brewing perfect storm.' This is a bleak outlook reflecting economic, humanitarian and climate change conditions in South Sudan, alongside conflict within the country and the impact of ongoing conflict in Sudan. Whilst it can feel like the tiniest drop in the deepest ocean, each of our flights, including for our partners like Tearfund and Medair, do make a difference, improving the lives of individuals and communities. And whilst our drop can feel hugely insignificant, we place our hope in the knowledge that Jesus is the one who can still storms.



John is currently supporting the program in Chad for a couple of weeks. This week, he has organised a medevac, contended with rain, and is helping the team there to establish a regular shuttle route. He has also been setting up flights for World Relief and the Norwegian Refugee Council to Adre, a spontaneous settlement on the border with Sudan. The conflict in Sudan intensified in this area



in May, with thousands more refugees, mostly women and children, fleeing to Chad, bringing the total number of new refugees in this area to 600, 000. Overland travel to the East is very challenging so, when security is ok, these flights enable our partners to do the much-needed work amongst these people who have lost so much. You can find out more about the NRC work in this region in [this short BBC clip shared last week](#). John has a new role in MAF South Sudan, now overseeing Operational Projects. One such project is to manage the development of airstrips to meet MAF standards for safety. Along with Thomas Titus, John has designed a workshop that can be delivered to airport personnel in the locations we often visit. In June, Thomas and John visited Maridi to run the first workshop. It was the first time the people who work at the airstrip had ever gathered together and as well as discussing height of grass, and the risk posed by termite mounds, there was much learnt about working as a team too. Thomas and John hope to develop the workshop and use it at other locations, meaning we can keep flying our partners to places that would otherwise be inaccessible. John's deputy, Malony, a South Sudanese pilot, has taken the Ops manager seat –aka the hot seat! - from John. We praise God that he has grown into this role. Please pray for Malony with his new responsibilities.



Juba Christian Academy

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 school year 2024-2025 and beyond with NO current leads for teachers or an administrator for the future. **Please pray for one brilliant 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](#)



Home is a complex concept for most children who are 'Third Culture Kids' at JCA. In our recent art topic, we made matchboxes representing places we felt we belonged to. Each matchbox was placed into an (old covid test) box decorated with representations of Heaven to remind us that God is our eternal dwelling place!



A visit to the Post office. We recently discovered it is a popular myth that there is no postal service in South Sudan. There is no delivery, but it is possible to have mail sent from countries to a PO Box. On our school trip, we had a great tour and each child bought stamps - probably quite collectible ones!

Hope and Future

Tracey is continuing to pop over to this school, about to celebrate its first birthday, to support teacher training. Teachers Elizabeth, Michael, Cecelia, Glory, Linda and Cecelia care, disciple and educate the children here. They happily attend training, with great questions and active participation!

Because of this small school, thirty children from vulnerable families are now receiving a good meal, wound care and education. Sixteen of the children are from a 'slum' in a cemetery. Recently, it was announced that the government is going to demolish the homes in the graveyard in attempt to clean up the city. We are concerned about what will happen to the children and their guardians. If they are scattered across the city, it will be challenging for the school to find them and collect them each day. Sadly, two of children have already left the school. One ten year old boy was sent back to the village to work at a cattle camp, very basic conditions, no opportunity for education, and the risk of becoming entwined in conflict. Please do keep these children, their families, teachers and school in prayer.



Our UK Partnership Visit August/September 2024

In the middle of August we will return to the UK for 6 weeks for medical checks, passport renewal and family time. We also hope to catch up with as many supporters as possible! Dates in the diary include:

22 nd August	7pm	Cranfield University Christian Union
8 th September	10.30am and 4pm	All Saints' Church, Sidmouth
21 st September	pm	Women Unlimited Meeting at Ampthill Baptist Church
22 nd September	am	Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley
29 th September	10.45am	Ampthill Baptist Church



Babies on board!

This week we flew nine more babies and their caregivers from Juba to Tororo, Uganda. The children have conditions such as hydrocephalus and spina bifida. There is no specialised care here in South Sudan; their condition worsens for lack of treatment. There is excellent care across the border at the Ugandan CURE hospital. Working in partnership with MAF Uganda, we are now looking into ways these children can fly with MAF to receive the treatment they need throughout their childhood. As our colleague Jaap helped the families through airport immigration – not the easiest experience – some officials asked about ‘the cause of the sickness and where they were going.’ Jaap had a chance to explain. The officials expressed thanks for what MAF were doing to care for these babies and get them the help that they need. One said, ‘You are showing that you are not here in South Sudan for your own purpose.’ We have helped 29 babies so far and there are at least 100 waiting. Please do be praying for these families and children and for continued resources to enable us to offer these valuable flights. Thank YOU for enabling us to do this work!

Good news for Wildlife

South Sudan is often in the Top Ten charts for shocking reasons. For example, recently we were classified at #1 as the country hit hardest by Food Inflation (164%). To hear good news can be so encouraging. African Parks has just announced that the world's largest land mammal migration, the Great Nile Migration, has been confirmed in South Sudan, involving approximately 6 million antelope. [Read about it here!](#)



White eared Kob, the Great Nile Migration, David Simpson African Parks



Pray with us

We hope that the stories above inspire your prayers for the people of this country. We would also ask that you pray for good governance in South Sudan and especially for wisdom and security as the country prepares for scheduled but unconfirmed elections at the end of this year. Personally, we give praise for change in John's job role after a full-on four years. It's quite a time of change in the MAF team here with a new country director in place and several long term families leaving the program. Goodbyes are hard. We would also appreciate prayers for our UK partnership visit and for a time of rest having had an intense time of compassionate leave and work here in our job roles over the last year. We look forward to sharing more about what God is doing here with many of you and catching up on your news too whilst we are in the UK.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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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!](#)

With our love
and gratitude,

John Tracey