



FIONA's NEWS
June 2024



“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28v19-20a (NIV)

As you know, MAF's aim is that isolated people may be changed by Christ's love as we serve together to bring help, hope and healing through aviation. Previous letters have described some of the very practical work that our flights have assisted. This time, I am going to concentrate on the evangelism and discipleship work made possible by MAF.

At intervals, MAF flies week long trips for Every Village so that they can drill or repair wells and work on radio masts for broadcasting gospel material on solar-powered, fixed-tuned radios that they distribute. Whilst staying in a village on these trips, they show the Jesus film in the evenings.



Ugandan-based pilot Dave Forney was delighted to see that community groups also gathered together of their own desire, to sit and listen as a group to the radio (the little blue rectangular box) in the evening and discuss the content in the same way that many in the west might have a Bible/prayer meeting.

This Every Village video:

<https://vimeo.com/107044125> shows how the radio is changing lives. (Photos: Dave Forney © 2024)

Reverend Park is a South Korean missionary, working in Maridi. Both for income-generating purposes to support his family's ministry and to provide some local employment he runs an egg-production business. MAF's freight sometimes includes baby chicks like these ones that were flown by MAF Uganda from their airfield at Kajjansi to Yambio in S Sudan where they were transferred to a MAF S Sudan aircraft for the final leg of their journey to Maridi. Most weeks there is a consignment of eggs to our office in Juba (bottom left of photo). Many of us on the international staff prefer these eggs to the cheaper ones available in the local supermarket. We are also very happy to support Rev. Park's ministry in this way. Every Saturday he invites hundreds of children and young people to hear Bible stories and sing songs and he feeds them. (Photo: John Feil)



Africa Inland Mission (AIM) has a base in Torit with missionaries serving in various other villages in that general area. They have regular needs to travel with MAF - for R&R, for conferences, for training courses, visitors on short-term mission trips etc. A team of MAF



wives does grocery shopping in Juba for them (and other up-country missionaries), saving them the time and cost of travelling to Juba to do the purchasing themselves and enabling them to stay healthier with a greater variety of fresh foods than would be available in their villages. (Photos: various MAF staff)

AIM missionaries come from many different nations, with an increasing emphasis on enabling and supporting African missionaries to serve on their own continent. Robert and Carol Bett are Kenyans who have been based at Lopit for nine years and are particularly grateful for the support from MAF S Sudan



without which they would not be able work there. Do look at the videos of their stories at <https://www.aimstories.com/courageous-calling/> The site also features AIM missionaries in the MAF countries of Chad, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar and Uganda.



South Sudanese missionaries also benefit from MAF's flights. A team from Fruits Ministries is serving amongst the Koma people at Darjo, a very isolated area near the Ethiopian border that is totally inaccessible by road. The airstrip is also often unusable in the wet season. As soon as there is a period of a few dry days we will be flying the team back for their third year, along with their supplies of food. (Photo: James Nyika)



Most of this missionary work is a long-term commitment of building relationships and sharing the gospel by living it as well as teaching it. We rejoice when we hear that it starts bearing fruit, such as the news of the elder in Darjo who has given his life to Christ and are grateful that MAF played a part.

I complete my time as finance manager in Juba on 2nd August. My successor will be a Kenyan, Isaiah Ochola, who will assume responsibility for accounting for both MAF Kenya (where he currently works) and MAF S Sudan, sharing his time between both countries. I am now giving him training in areas in which he has little experience in Kenya and briefing him on matters specific to South Sudan.

As for me, I now know that I shall be continuing to work for MAF in a UK-based role with flexible hours, which will enable me to give some assistance to my mother around the house and garden. The current plan includes helping with global financial reporting, so I am going to have to swot up on accounting standards (eg FRS102 and IFRS16 for the accountants among you)! Full details are yet to be worked out and will no doubt evolve as needs and situations change – judging by past experience of making plans – but the role will still have the requirement to raise financial and prayer support.

Thank you very much for having supported me in my MAF journey thus far – and particularly for your prayers over the last few months whilst my future has been so unclear. I hope to see many of you during my home assignment in August and September (maybe October for those in Kent).

- Thank God and pray for the various missionaries serving in South Sudan, that they may be encouraged in their calling as they see some fruit from their labours. Pray for their health and that they have enough food to eat and that their other needs are met.
- Please pray for the finance teams in both Kenya and South Sudan as they adjust to the changes arising from my departure and this new appointment and particularly for Isaiah and his family as he takes on this new role and its extra workload with support from the Ashford office.
- Pray for wisdom as we work on budgets for 2025, in a challenging financial climate.
- Please pray for my transition back to the UK and that arrangements for my home assignment will fall into place smoothly and easily. All that is booked so far is a week with the OHP sisters in Whitby for rest and spiritual refreshment. Pray for safety in all the travelling involved.

Please let me or MAF know if you no longer want to receive this prayer letter or would like it in a different format (post or email) and let us know if you would also like to receive the briefer prayer letter without pictures that I send in the interim months.

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