



FIONA'S NEWS March 2025



“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6v33 (NIV)

I've added an extra logo to the top of this letter whilst we celebrate 80 years of MAF.

It was an appropriate year for 4 representatives of MAF to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace, hosted by the King, Queen and Princess Royal to recognise the humanitarian work undertaken by national and international organisations. Max Goves, former pilot and current MAF UK Trustee is shown here with Queen Camilla. *(Photo: IJP Event Photos – cropped from original)*



More details on this story can be found at :

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1032635182236867&id=100064711835187



This is also the year in which the last remaining founder of MAF, Jack Hemmings, died aged 103, shown here (left) with Stuart King in 1948 *(Photo: MAF archives)*. Unable to fly for MAF because of an eyesight issue, it is quite gratifying to say he became an accountant. He supported the organisation in other ways, latterly generating extra publicity for MAF with birthday exploits such as taking the controls of a spitfire at 102. There is more information on Jack and his life and adventures at <https://maf-uk.org/news/jack-hemmings-afc-10-aug-1921-24-jan-2025/>

This year marks my 17th with MAF so I thought I would share some up to date stories from the countries in which I've lived in that time.



Laynhapuy Homeland School serves 9 communities in Arnhem Land. It has developed an innovative programme for pupils from years 10 to 12, using weekly boarding within the homelands area. In addition to regular academic work, pupils study for Certificate 3 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management which gives them the opportunity to find jobs as Rangers in their homelands after graduating. Returning home for weekends in termtime, made possible by MAF, enables the teenagers to fulfil cultural obligations and help their families with hunting. *(Photo: J Rytkonen)*

In Uganda Christian NGO, Impact Nations, collaborates with Remnant Generation to support vulnerable girls. MAF recently flew Christina to Soroti to host a seminar on teen marriage, sexual exploitation, and teen pregnancies. She also went to Mbale where she met a group of girls who have been supported into small businesses, the proceeds of which have enabled them to purchase the pictured goats. *(Photo: Christina Stewart)*



5 doctors, mainly from mission hospitals, studying for a Master in Rural Medicine have just attended a 2-week course on HF Radio and Solar run by MAF Technologies. The training has equipped them with essential skills to maintain and operate communication systems and solar power solutions in remote areas, ensuring they can provide continuous healthcare and stay connected, even in the most isolated district

hospitals across Papua New Guinea. *(Photo: Kowara Bell)*



MAF PNG's flights continue to include medevacs such as one last month for a woman who was severely injured by a bush knife when she was attacked by a relative over a land dispute. MAF's quick response to take her to hospital in Goroka saved her life.

The woman and her husband were also helped by the donation of a care pack in a bucket to assist them with their stay at the hospital, having had no time to pack any

personal belongings. The bucket contains such things as a blanket, a soft towel, a washcloth, water containers, plates, bowls, mugs, soap and a toothbrush. Organised by MAF's Michelle Venter, the initiative has been supported by the local chamber of commerce. *(Photos: Kowara Bell)* See following page for the translation of the bucket message– and the verse at the top of this letter.



One of the partners with whom we have worked for many years is Medair, a Christian organisation specialising in providing emergency relief in remote and hard-to-reach places – for which MAF's services are very important. Fighting around Tambura in South Sudan, led to the displacement of 20,000 people and a shortage of medical facilities so Medair responded. A critical need was for malaria testing kits, shown here, and for medicines, flown in by MAF. *(Photo: Stefan Kewitz, Medair)* See also:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1SRbQHhQhg>



Our newest aircraft, shown here in Gloucester, *(Photo: Dave Waterman)* is touring the UK before heading to Papua New Guinea. It is helping to raise awareness of MAF's work in this special anniversary year so do look out for any mentions of it in the media. We are hugely grateful to our donors who enable us to replace ageing aircraft with new ones – along with all the other supporters whose gifts and prayers underpin the work we have done over the last 80 years and continue to do as we bring help, hope and healing in Christ's name.

Now that Mother has given up her car and my role is developing, we have reached the decision that it would be best to move back into Tenterden town. I will then be able to work in the office and Mother should be able to walk to wherever she needs to go in Tenterden. We have appointed an estate agent to sell this house and are starting to look for one to buy.

Thank you for your love and support. May this be a special year for you too.

- Praise God for all that has been accomplished by MAF in his name and for his Kingdom over the last 80 years and for how the organisation's needs have been met over that time.
- Thinking of the many people in remote places lacking access to the gospel, healthcare and education, pray for MAF to meet its vision to double its impact and reach over 5,000 isolated communities by 2045.
- Please pray for a quick and hassle-free house sale, purchase and move.
- I have just been diagnosed with osteoporosis so please pray for me as I adjust to medication and learn any other changes I need to make to stay healthy – physically and spiritually!

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.

Contact details for MAF UK are: **W** www.maf-uk.org **E** staffsupport@maf-uk.org **T** 01303 852 819 or post Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TQ

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Message in the Care Bucket

Tok Pisin:

Goroka Chamber of Commerce, MAF Technologies, King Wee Stoa na Meri belong MAF givim long you olgeta samting i stap insait long dispela bakit.

Ol glori I go long Bikpela!

“Tasol namba wan samting yupela i mas mekim i olsem. Yupela i mas larim God i stap king belong yupela, na kisim stretpela pasin bilong em, na bai em i givim dispela olgeta arapela samting tu long yupela” Matthew 6 v33

English:

Goroka Chamber of Commerce, MAF Technologies, King Way Store and MAF ladies give you the things inside this bucket.

All the glory belongs to God!

“But the number one thing you must do is this. You must let God be your King and get his righteousness and he will give all other things to you too.” Matthew 6 v33