



FIONA'S NEWS September 2025



"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23v6 (NIV)

Homes and houses have been on my mind the last few months so that's the focus of this newsletter.

The number of South Sudanese and Congolese refugees in Uganda continues to grow. There are now 150,000 people in Rhino Refugee Camp, including Elizabeth Andrew Gatluak whose husband was killed in a mass shooting in Bentiu. She was fortunate to be given a job as a cleaner at a pre-school nursery in the camp operated by Khayamandi Foundation (KF) and now she teaches the top class. KF, in partnership with World Vision, has worked on a water project that saves refugees a



forty-five minute walk to find water. There are increasing numbers of child-headed families in Rhino Camp whom KF are trying to support. Their initial assistance for 16 yr-old Nyabuom Puok and her 4 younger siblings has been a thatched hut, a mattress and daily meals at school.



MAF enables staff from the Foundation to reach the camp in a little over an hour, instead of spending 12 hours on the road. (Photographs: Damalie Hirwa)



In South Sudan, a new airstrip constructed with MAF's help in Bichibich is having an impact for peace. The Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund in conjunction with Peace Canal has established a centre and a borehole at this remote location between three warring people groups. Families are now beginning to settle nearby, building homes for themselves and starting to do some farming with the hope of some stability. The people have decided to call the community centre "Kuyubuza", which means "I am resting". The women in particular are tired of the running involved whenever there's communal fighting. (Photo: Reuben Vermeulen)



For those whose homes are remote from towns, an airstrip enables access to healthcare and education, along with opportunities to sell produce and buy other goods. The people of Dimanbil spent 40 years working with sticks and bushknives to clear a runway that finally opened in 2023. Two years later, they are still rejoice when a plane lands, reducing a 4 day trek to a 20 minute flight. Wokul, an elderly lady who in her younger days had helped in clearing the airstrip, described the difference like this: "Before, we lived in darkness and watched the planes fly over us. But now the plane lands here. This change is like the sun shining," (Photo: Mandy Glass) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC-SXAQ0Hpc> shows more about this story.



Middle Bafing National Park in Guinea is home to almost 20 per cent of the remaining population of West African chimpanzees and is recognised as the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in West Africa. MAF flew a team there from African Parks Network (APN) so that they could quickly reach places that would have taken days by vehicle and on foot. APN works with governments and local communities on the management of protected areas. The purpose of this visit was to explore the area, identifying constraints and potential for conservation to protect the ecosystem in this part of the Fouta Djallon, the “water tower” of West Africa. *(Photo: Noé/S.Pinchon)*



The Mama Waiting Hut Initiative in Papua New Guinea provides safe shelter for pregnant mothers close to health centres so that they can easily access assistance when needed. MAF Technologies is involved in the provision of lighting. At Sigerehe Heath Centre, MAF installed solar lights in the delivery room, postnatal ward, and the waiting hut. This simple initiative is a life-saver. Women have to walk several days, over mountains and across rivers, to reach the health centre. Before the waiting hut was available, they could be too late reaching medical aid when they needed it. Now they can arrive ahead of their delivery date, with somewhere safe to stay and knowing that the staff will be able to see clearly to help with delivery even at night.

(Photo: Kowara Bell) See: <https://vimeo.com/1104023398?fl=pl&fe=vl>

For the last 6 years, John Chol has been living in Uganda whilst he has been training with MAF there to be a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer. Now qualified to sign off aircraft after maintenance, he is on the move - back to his home country, South Sudan, to serve with MAF there. *(Photo: Damalie Hirwa)*



I hope to be moving soon, too, back to Tenterden so that I can work in the MAF office in Ashford. My job as Technical Accountant is quite diverse so recently I have been dealing with insurance, tax, statutory returns, budgets, information for the board, pensions, audit and project accounting. I go to Papua New Guinea in the middle of October for 3 weeks, so my mother and I really want to be in our new home before then.

Thank you for the blessing that you are to me with your prayers and support. May God bless you and your homes.

- Please pray for the refugees in Uganda, that they may experience God’s peace and care in the present and have hope for the future.
- Thank God for peace initiatives like those at Bichibich and pray that communities with a history of retaliatory violence will learn to live together in harmony.
- Please pray for stamina and wisdom for the MAF finance team, including the recently appointed Chief Finance Officer (Michael, joined MAF a year ago in a different role) and the Group Financial Controller (Anita, joined start of August), as we manage deadlines and heavy workloads across different timezones.
- Continue to pray for the house transactions, that we may be able to move soon.
- Please also continue to pray for my personal health – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

Please let me or MAF know if you no longer want to receive this quarterly 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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