



Passengers for CURE Hospital Uganda

## Good Bye for the Last Time?

It was great to catch up with many of you over the summer, we are sorry that we didn't get much time to spend South of Newcastle. Thank you for all the support, encouragement and kind words. Mim and Celia managed to travel as soon as school ended and Geoff joined them for July. As well as seeing friends and family we visited the MAF Office in Folkestone and managed to fit in some sight seeing and a show in London, trying to teach Mim something about her cultural heritage!

We also managed a few days in the Hebrides, the nearest we got to a holiday. Mim had a week at SU Creative Arts camp. We had a leak in the bathroom floor of our house, more vaccinations, managed to get out of an escape room and met Geoff's niece's new baby and Celia's nephew's nearly new baby.

Thanks to everyone who welcomed us, fed us, prayed for us and looked after us most excellently.



Scottish beach - beautiful, but the weather can't make up its mind!



Celtic Cross on Oronsay



Mim meeting her new first cousin?



With a Bristol Sleeve Valve engine at  
The Science Museum

As we return to Uganda for the tenth time and the start of our 11th year working here it looks like a season of change is almost upon us. Mim will finish school in the summer of 2025 and is hoping to study in college in Scotland (maybe after a gap year). A pension for Geoff seems to be something achievable in a reasonable time scale, not just in the distant future so we have been talking to MAF about coming home. Most likely in the autumn of next year (2025), although that is not necessarily the end of working with MAF, perhaps on short term secondments. We will let you know once the plans are more firm.

Returning to this part of the world we are reminded how fortunate we are to come from a stable and relatively just country. Back in Uganda Bobby Wine, leader of the main opposition party, is in hospital having fragments of a tear gas grenade removed from his leg. The atmosphere is a little tense.

On a similar note, living much nearer to Sudan, we are reminded again of the terrible situation in that country, which is barely making the press in Europe. The World Food Programme says that there are now 10.7 million displaced people (five times that of the terrible situation in Gaza) of whom several hundred thousand in North Dafur are facing famine, but both sides in the fighting appear to be restricting the delivery of aid. For those of you who are on line, more information can be found here

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c623levzxnjo>

or here <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/sudan-emergency>.

Blessings,

Geoff, Celia & Mim



It's always fun to work with big yellow machinery



Runway back in service

### **News from the hangar**

Not exactly news from the hangar, but news from the MAF airfield is that shortly before we left for the UK we again suffered some issues with part of the runway flooding due to the high level of lake Victoria. However thanks to some generous donations and some help from our civil engineering friends at Engineering ministries International the low spot in the runway was quickly filled, graded, rolled and returned to service.

With a number of people from the Uganda team travelling over the summer the hangar has been relatively quiet over the last few months, but it has been exciting that some of the younger Ugandan engineers have progressed far enough in their training and experience to help out in other MAF programmes. We are thankful to two who travelled to Liberia for a month to help out with the aircraft there and also with the Cessna from Guinea where there are no maintenance facilities. Another engineer, JohnMark, spent two weeks in Liberia helping with maintenance there. On the training front we are also expecting to be joined by a new Zambian engineer who is hoping to join the MAF programme in Chad, but who first needs some exposure to MAF's aircraft and maintenance systems.

We have also kept up our connections with Ohio. Peter Okia, one of the apprentice engineers is currently visiting the hangar where Geoff trained to top up his training with some experience which is only rarely possible in Uganda. We have had great fun introducing him to some of our American friends and to the Church where we were members all those years ago.

Having said that things have been quiet, we are expecting that to change very quickly as we have two projects kicking off to help out the team in Chad. The first is to carry out some extended maintenance on their smaller Cessna 182 aircraft which needs work on its interior and paint. The second is to carry out an upgrade of the weather radar and the autopilot on their Cessna Caravan. The latter has significant time pressure involved as they can only manage without it for a couple of weeks. Watch this space for an update once we get started on the work!



Cure Hospital Presentation to MAF Staff



Cure Hospital ICU

### **CURE Hospital Uganda:**

One of the exciting things that we get to join with in MAF are the updates we get from the partners we fly. Recently we were privileged to have a team from the CURE hospital visit us to tell us about their work and to thank MAF for their help in flying patients to the hospital.

Unexpectedly the small town of Mbale in Eastern Uganda is home to one of one of Africa's leading pediatric hospitals for brain surgery and the treatment of neurological conditions and even receives referrals from places as far away as the Middle East. It provides minimally-invasive endoscopic neurosurgical procedures especially to children suffering from hydrocephalus and spina bifida, thanks to support from CURE International in training, modern equipment and visiting specialists.

The CURE teaching hospital consists of three operating rooms, an 18-bed Intensive Care Unit and 50 ward beds. Hospital staff complete approximately 1,900 surgical procedures a year, as well as developing new procedures and carrying out training for local and regional medical professionals.

The children at CURE hospitals receive life-changing surgical care and hear, often for the first time, of their worth and value in God's eyes. CURE trains our medical staff to provide the counselling and support patients need to process and heal from trauma and successfully reintegrate back into their communities after treatment.

Early treatment of some of these cases is vital and MAF can make it possible for mothers and babies from remote areas, especially in South Sudan to access life changing treatment.

## Please pray for

## Uganda Contact

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- Give thanks for the time we had to spend with family and friends in the UK over the summer and for the encouragement we got from all the supporters we met.
- Please pray for Mim starting her final year at Acacia International School in Kampala.
- Pray for the MAF leadership team as they face up to the complex challenges of balancing needs in many countries against available resources in terms of money and trained personnel.
- Pray for the right replacement for Geoff to come forward.
- Pray for political stability and calm in Uganda. Over the next months campaigning will start for the presidential election early in 2026.

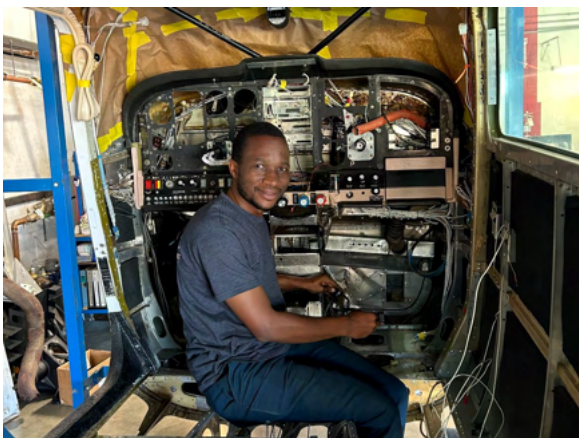
- Pray for the very difficult situation in Sudan and especially the Dafur region where so many people are in a terrible situation because of the fighting between the government and the RSF.
- Pray for all of us as we start to think about transitioning back into the Western world.



Eunice, one of the MAF Uganda booking Officers who underwent surgery for a brain tumour at CURE in 2006



CURE Operating Theatre



Peter Okia at MMS in Ohio



One of the MAF Uganda pilots delivering patients to CURE Hospital