



Arrival of the MAF Uganda Float Plane

## Our Final? Newsletter

Well, we made it back to the UK after a somewhat stressful journey, our flights being cancelled twice. Having sold / packed / given away all our furniture, pans bedding etc we had to be rescued by lovely friends who looked after us until we did eventually manage to leave. We had a great send off from MAF Uganda including being presented with a lovely batik picture of Kampala which will be a great reminder of our time there.

We have arrived home to a fantastic welcome from friends, family and may of you and while we officially end our time MAF at new year, we look forward in catching up with as many of you as possible in 2026.

The reality is now setting in with feeling the cold, having to pay for heating, struggling through appointments with opticians & dentists and coming up with a long list of

things we need to do to the house including curtain rails that actually work !

But there have been some fun things too. The apple tree in our garden had more fruit on it than we have ever seen before. Sadly the apples are a little sour for eating, but at Mim's initiative we borrowed an apple press and have made a large quantity of very tasty juice. We have been enjoying eating "real" British food, tasty cheese, fish and Chips, breakfast cereal and mushrooms. We were also very happy to be back for Geoff's father's 98th birthday celebration.

During our journeying we managed to spend a couple of days in London. Celia visited the British Library, Mim went on a back stage tour at the National Theatre to see how the sets and props are made and the inner working of the stages and we all managed to see a show. A bit different from the Kampala Amateur Dramatic Society.

We travelled down the country during early November to meet with MAF's UK based team for de-briefs and to talk about arranging medicals and other paperwork. During this time Geoff also met with MAF's head of Quality, Safety and Security who has offered him the possibility of some short term contracts to support different overseas programmes in the future..... so while this is the final "official" newsletter it may not be the last!

As we look forward to the excitement of our first Christmas in the UK for a good few years, we are doing our best to enjoy time with different friends and family.

Happy Christmas

Geoff, Celia & Mim



Our presentation from the Uganda team



Final Hangar Team Photo

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you

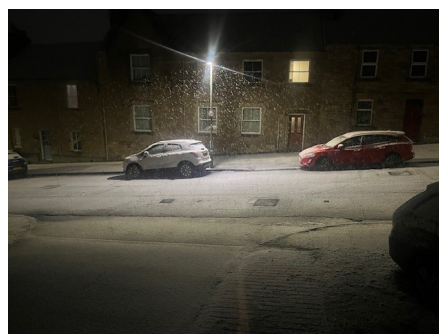
We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our supporters, past and present who have made the last 10 years possible and who have allowed us to do a small part in helping with MAF's mission to bring help, hope and healing to isolated people. Supporters have encouraged us, given us meals, made financial donations, found us places to stay and prayed for us. Without you it would not have been possible.

Thank you

**Geoff, Celia & Mim**



Making apple juice



Don't think much of this!

## IMPORTANT

Any of our faithful friends who support us financially by Direct Debit, please note that this will be cancelled automatically by MAF at the end of December when we formally leave their employment.

If you have been supporting us by standing order, you will need to cancel that with your bank.

If you want to continue to support MAF financially there are a number of options, but they all require **ACTION** on your behalf:

For those of you who have a heart especially for Uganda, our good friends, the Baguma family need to increase their support base. Sam has recently taken on the unenviable (to my mind) role of being Country Director for MAF in Uganda. As such he is responsible for the operation and well-being of the whole team including the Ugandan pilots, the hangar at Kajjansi and the Ugandan national staff.

We know there are several of our supporters who have a particular interest in the engineering side of MAF's work. There is currently the opportunity to support a young MAF engineer called Matthew Veal. Matthew is currently completing his aircraft engineer's practical experience in the UK and doesn't know yet in which country he will be based going forward. We had the chance to meet Matthew when he came to Uganda for a training placement last year and are confident he has the makings of an engineer who has MAF's mission at heart.

If you want to specifically support a MAF pilot on the front line Josh White has recently completed his commercial pilots license and is currently spending 3 months at All Nations Bible College before departing the field. He would value your prayers and financial support.

Please e-mail [adam.pope@maf-uk.org](mailto:adam.pope@maf-uk.org) or call Adam Pope on 01303 850950 and confirm what you would like to happen to your donations, otherwise they will be cancelled. You can also ask that your donations are directed to MAF's general fund so they can be used where MAF believe them most needed.



Matthew Veal with some of the MAFU hangar team during his visit last year



Sam and Abby Baguma and family



MAF pilot Josh White



MAF's map of needs

And a final word from Mim

Dear friends, I suppose this is Hello and Goodbye. I don't think I've ever written to you during our entire service with MAF. I must say that it's odd to say it's almost over, just like my time at Acacia International School. But now I'm almost six months graduated, and my friends are spread across the whole world, attending university, or taking a gap year. I find it funny that where most people our age are taking gap years to go and explore the world, we're busy trying to settle back into 'normal life', and readjusting to our home countries.

I'm personally struggling with the cold, so that's taking some getting used to. So is being able to just go places, which was somewhat of a luxury in Uganda, I couldn't just walk to a friends house by myself, so its strange being able to hop on a bus and go.

I'm hoping to study Production design next year (that's assuming I get in to my preferred university. So please pray that if this is God's plan that I get in.), which is designing sets and costumes for theatre. There are never enough Christians in the theatrical field, so please also pray that I can find some good Christian friends.

With that being said, my journey with MAF isn't over quite yet, as I've signed up to the MAF Copilot programme, telling other people my age about the mission field and going to Christian conventions with MAF, so maybe if you're at an SU Scotland event, I might see you there.

Thanks for all of your support over the past fifteen years, it would've been impossible without your kindness, prayers and generosity.

Mim





Back Stage at the National Theatre



The MAF Co-Pilot Team

### **Last News from the Hangar**

Two final items to mention in this last news from the hangar in Kajjansi. The float plane successfully arrived in Uganda. Our measuring turned out to be correct and it does fit through the hangar door with about two inches of clearance to the beacon light on the top of the tail fin. The aircraft is now registered with the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority as X-HNJ and is undergoing fitting of some additional equipment (including some exciting new toys, such as a water depth sounder) to make it suitable for operation on Lake Victoria. The hard work currently lies with the Operations team who are surveying islands and preparing docks for the landing areas. You will need to keep your eyes on MAF's social media updates or newsletters to hear about it going into service to help the work of reaching out with health and spiritual aid to the people on the islands. We'll be watching too.

The second item to mention is that Geoff has been awarded the Larry Heinz Safety Award by MAFI. Larry was the initiator of MAF's formal safety programme and, after he passed away from cancer, an annual award has been made to recognise contributions that have had a positive impact on the quality, safety, and security of MAF. Geoff's award is "In recognition of his tireless commitment to maintaining and improving Quality and Safety across the MAF Uganda programme, neighbouring programmes in Africa, and the wider global MAF community." This is a fitting end to his time with MAF as Larry was one of the people who interviewed Geoff when he applied to join fifteen years ago.



Phew it fits !



Safety Award Presentation

### **Please pray for:**

Give thanks for the last 15 years. For the fun we have had working for MAF, for the friends we have made and the opportunities we have had share God's love, both directly and through Geoff's support to MAF's flight programme.

Mim as she works on her Uni application and the portfolio that she needs to submit with it.

Pray for Geoff's replacement(s), that they would be able to keep up the good work in Uganda.

The MAF management re-organisation team.

Pray for political stability and calm in Uganda. The presidential election takes place in early in 2026 and there could be some difficult times during the campaigning and voting.  
Pray for all of us as we transition back to a very different lifestyle and for wisdom as to what we do next.

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Site of one of the float plane jetties



This, we won't miss