



## HAPPY EASTER FROM THE LINKLETERS

### Dear friends, Happy Easter from Uganda,

As we approach Easter we think about the violence and suffering we see in so many countries around us: The horror in Gaza, War in Ukraine, fighting and famine in Sudan, militias in Eastern Congo, instability in South Sudan : And we are thankful for the hope that Easter brings us.

Meanwhile in Uganda the dry season was the driest it has been for several years with red dust everywhere, the grass looking brown and the pot holes in the road set to iron. Oh the bliss first time it rained, but then we got more rain, and even more rain with the usual result that the roads became flooded quagmires, the electric was off regularly as trees fall on the wires or the posts fall down because of the softening ground and when there is no electric our water usually goes off..... ho hum.

In spite of this Mim is working hard to complete course work before her final exams in May, Celia's chickens continue to produce about one egg a day and Geoff got coerced in giving the kid's talk at the Palm Sunday service in our church.

Some will have seen, either on the BBC or in a MAF press release that King Charles officially unveiled MAF's newest aircraft while it was in the UK en-route to Papua New Guinea. The special 10th anniversary event took place at RAF Northolt and several of our colleagues were privileged to attend, including Simon, pointing out to the king some of the details of the new aircraft.



From one extreme (note the pilots visibility).....



to the other! (Lake Victoria flooding across the road on the way to work)

As we are now entering our last few months in Uganda, I, Celia, I'm contemplating what needs to be done before we leave. Not only are there all the last visits to familiar places etc, all the goodbyes, checking we have photographs of all the familiar things, but all the "stuff" we have accumulated while we have been here need to be severely pruned. How many books is it reasonable, I ask myself, to get rid of. I've already been through my books twice and I still have too many to pack. Similarly creative things, although these are not so hard to get rid of as there are quite a few small to large children who will much appreciate them.

Then again, I'm writing out the Acacia School photography course for someone else to teach. I have to teach it to them so they understand the logic before term starts again next August. And in the background of all the sorting, organising etc, is Mim working for her AP exams (American equivalent of A-levels). Then she graduates at the end of the first week in June. I'm quite sure that when I last checked she was only going up into senior school, but there must've been some IGCSE in there somewhere. I also noticed how much more grey hair has sprung up in my plat recently. Again, I don't remember this happening. Funny how people change though. Ten years ago I saw the sweet little face of a gecko staring up at me from a drawer, "how cute", I thought. These days the more worldly-wise me thinks how to defend it from the cat while hoping that it hasn't weed on my clothes.

Easter Blessings,  
Love

**Geoff, Celia & Mim**



Final visits to many loved places



Giving the Kid's talk in Church



Obedient Chickens



Mim's School Easter Concert

## News from the Hangar

One of the satisfying thing Geoff has been involved with over the past few years is the development of the young Ugandan engineers in the hangar team. Three of them are now formally licensed by the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority to release aircraft back into service after maintenance and three more are well on their way. It is exciting for us to be able to send these guys out to work support maintenance work in other MAF programmes. Since the beginning of the year, Brian has been to Chad to help out, John-Mark was in Madagascar to give cover while their engineer was away on training, David is on his way to Liberia to help the team there with a task they have never, previously had to complete and John, who is actually South Sudanese has moved back home to support MAF's operation in Juba.

We also need to put in a big vote of thanks to our friends at Missionary Maintenance Services where Geoff got experience for his aviation maintenance license more than ten years ago and to our friends from Burt Avenue Wesleyan Church for the excellent training and the great care they have taken with Geoff's Ugandan friend and colleague, Peter, who for his first trip outside his home country ventured all the way to Ohio in order to qualify as an FAA licensed Airframe and Powerplant mechanic. Peter arrived back to help with a repair to the landing gear of MAF Uganda's small Cessna 441 aircraft. A job which he completed as part of his experience building in USA so he is in prime position to help with and unusual and complex task.



Welcome back Peter



Where's the floor?  
Removed to replace the landing gear  
brackets

The next exciting thing we have to share is the MAF Uganda float plane project. Ever since we came to Uganda MAF have talked about the idea of using a float plane to reach the communities living on the islands in Lake Victoria who are very isolated both from medical care and spiritual support. After much research to determine the needs of the people on the islands, the practicalities of operating a float plane on the lake which is at 4000 feet (most float planes are designed to take off and land on water which is at sea level) and some careful calculation of the costings, the project is going ahead. In fact, now that the start button has been pressed things are progressing in leaps and bounds. A suitable aircraft with amphibious floats already installed was found in South America and has been ferried to the USA where the floats will be overhauled and equipment upgraded before the long flight to Africa. The MAF operations team are looking at what needs to be done in terms of permissions and documents and where suitable docks exist or can be built on the islands. The latter exercise gave some unplanned experience as to why the float plane service would be such an advantage when their hired boat broke down far from land. In the hangar the team is looking at what extra tools will be required for this new machine and what training needs to be done in order to maintain this aircraft which has many additional systems and new equipment. Watch this space for the next thrilling installment!





Sending John off to South Sudan



Cessna Caravan with Amphibious Floats

### **Non Aviation Jobs!**

Currently MAF have openings for people to work in a number of non-aviation roles. There are openings for people to work as Country Directors, Teachers and in Finance. This could be your opportunity to serve with MAF.

### **Please pray for**

- Pray for Mim as she studies for the AP exams and completes her course work.
  - Pray for our friends and colleagues from MAF in South Sudan. Because of the security situation all the families are evacuated to Kenya.
  - Pray for our friends and colleagues from MAF in Eastern Congo. who have just moved back to their home basis having spent a month evacuated to Uganda because of fighting with the M23 rebels
- 
- Pray for a replacement for Geoff who can take on his role in Uganda.
  - Pray for Celia as she starts on the massive task of packing up our life here and transitioning us back to the UK.

### **Uganda Contact Details**

MAF Uganda  
P.O. Box 1  
Kampala  
Uganda

Geoff: [geoff.linkleter@mafint.org](mailto:geoff.linkleter@mafint.org)  
Celia: [celia.ruth@gmx.com](mailto:celia.ruth@gmx.com)