



# Tracey and John's Journal from Juba

The Feils serving with  
Mission Aviation Fellowship, South Sudan

**Status October 2025: Ready for Departure**

**Issue 22**



**Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world. *Isaiah 12:5***



One Sunday a few weeks, after facilitating the **Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations** peace workshop, Betty (on the right) greeted me with her huge, warm smile. 'Tracey, there are miracles happening because of this workshop!' Micheal Pajock Lok, Gilo and Abdon and I led the workshop in the local church closest to the MAF compound where I live and the church I worship at when John is away travelling. This area is characterised by simple dwellings, home to displaced peoples from around the country. Over 100 people from the church and wider community gathered to hear from scripture, discuss losses, share suffering and pain, interact with role plays and sing. This community - despite their ethnic differences - know how to come together to sing and dance with joy! Whilst 16 different ethnic groups were represented, peace is often first needed closer to home, within the family. During the workshop, a gentleman shared that he had always lived with the truth that, despite his parents longing for a baby for many years, he was despised from birth because he made them wait. Through all his growing up, he did not feel loved but cursed – this affected his job choices and his own family life. In adult years, his father had tried to make amends but the man had rejected this. On an evening after the workshop, he went home, bought phone credit and called his father. They cried together as they experienced reconciliation. His whole demeanour changed the following day: he stood taller, his eyes shone brightly. We also know churches are not perfect, too. Betty, who has been meeting weekly with the women since the workshop to go over the materials again to continue the healing work, is 'amazed' to report that church leaders have humbled themselves and admitted mistakes. Women who had been sent away wrongly from the church have been called back and they have been able to forgive their church leaders. She said, 'Big miracles really happened. Forgiveness took place! God is at work here again!' A recent evaluation project is hugely encouraging. Like Betty, over 97% of participants last year reported that they had started conversations with others about emotional healing following the workshop. Like Betty, participants are not only processing their own trauma but are also becoming agents of healing in their communities through dialogue and storytelling. Now, that is a reason to 'Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things!' And greater things are still to come – please keep praying for the MAF team who facilitate these life, community and nation-transforming workshops.







# OPERATIONS



In the Guinea office one rainy day, there was an urgent request for a medevac. Law student Israel Kourouma had suffered a traumatic brain injury in a motorcycle accident and doctors were recommending evacuation to Conakry for life-saving care. But with 1,000km of rough roads between N'Zérékoré, in the South East and the capital, ground transport wasn't an option with such injuries. With the Ops team, we were able to respond immediately arranging for Pilot Jonathan and I to fly to N'Zérékoré to collect Israel and get him to Conakry in our Cessna Caravan. This was miraculous in many ways as we had cancelled flights in that region due to poor weather but there was a window of opportunity for the medevac flight. The flight crosses Sierra Leone; in the photo, the river marks the border between the two countries.

"He was in a deep coma, the hospital had fought with all possible means to save this young man, and, at the last minute, we really saw that there is a need for examinations, a CT scan and better care. But this was not available in our department," said Dr. Alexis Honomou, a doctor on duty in the intensive care unit of the regional hospital of Nzérékoré.

"If MAF didn't exist in Guinea, this wouldn't have been possible," Dr Alexis added. "This was more than air transport; it was true Christian solidarity. Thanks to this gesture, the life of a young student with a bright future has a chance to be saved." Please pray for Israel's ongoing recovery.

I had a great time reconnecting, working with and delivering training for the local team in Guinea (see pic left). There are certain restrictions on what MAF can carry on aircraft, it's so important that local ground staff follow procedures to ensure we stay safe and within the regulations. Check-in staff need to brief passengers and be prepared to search luggage and freight if necessary. This can be awkward and must be done in a sensitive way; ground staff training is a legal requirement and must be done every 2 years. It was great to be able to ensure all staff have the training they need. They are a great, hard-working bunch, keen to offer excellent service.

The Guinea programme has tremendous potential but is currently limited by the budget constraints of the partners we fly. Removal of US AID funding has had a big impact here, as it has in other countries we serve. The programme is hoping and praying that collaboration with the UN and the opening of new airstrips in difficult-to-reach areas served by mission teams will help realise some of that potential.

***Please pray specifically for Lisa and the team as they work with aviation authorities, local communities and mission partners to plan and open new airstrips, enabling us to deliver help, hope and healing to isolated places.***





## Manna from Heaven for Juba Christian Academy

The new school year is underway with 30 students from 17 families. This reflects a growing mission community following God's call to bring families to serve Him in South Sudan, and underlines the importance of this school. Thank you so much for praying as JCA searched for enough staff to keep the school viable and sustained. It's my greatest joy to see Rael (top) and Victoria teaching so incredibly well, being motivated and equipped to serve. And good news too - God has provided Manna from Heaven, just enough to help us through this 'lean' season. Following a MAF co-pilot trip to Kenya, New Zealander Abigail (left) will be joining the school with Africa Inland Mission, to support with admin duties from January – November 2026. A MAF couple (who had said no to South Sudan) were pursuing options with MAF which weren't working out. They were reminded of the command to 'teach the nations' and this, along with JCA adverts, led to change of heart and direction for Marianne and Joost (right). Marianne, who has some teaching experience, will join the school for approx. a day a week once they arrive in Juba in February. Please pray for these ladies as they prepare to move to Juba. At school, we have been developing our emotional literacy and resilience, and learning strategies to cope with change. This is so important when you consider what these children have experienced in recent months: regular goodbyes to friends, school closure due to heatwave, relocation at short notice due to insecurity and currently experiencing more military checkpoints and seeing more armed vehicles on their way to and from school. We've also had fun learning about East Africa, and we managed to squeeze in a school trip to the MAF hangar just before I left. I was treated to a wonderful 'farewell celebration' by the school community – this has been a very special place to serve and I will miss this community very much.



## Holistic ministry with the Quills



One unexpected blessing of where we live is that missionaries working around the country sometimes stay on our compound whilst they visit Juba to buy supplies and update their legal paperwork, and this gives us a chance to get to know them! That's exactly how we first met the Quills. We've loved getting to know Rev. Andrew and Joanne who are serving in Ibba with CMS Ireland, focusing on holistic discipleship. The couple have been putting their skills in pastoring, counselling, architecture, and healthcare to good use in this remote, rural community where they serve with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

"Without MAF, we wouldn't be able to be here. Ibba is very safe. Between Ibba and Juba is not safe. MAF enables us to get where the Lord wants us to be and do ministry," Andrew said after the hour-long flight.

"It would be a 12-hour journey by road, and it's not safe," Joanne adds. "

In support of their ministry, MAF flights have delivered everything from screwdrivers, seeds, and medication to groceries—and even the fridge to store them in. They also now have a thriving sweet potato patch, taking roots from our compound to their and their neighbours. And the honey they send us is the most delicious we've ever tasted.

Andrew and Joanne moved to Ibba not long after I had visited the village to conduct a peace and reconciliation workshop so it has been a joy to hear about how that work is progressing too. Joanne's skills as a counsellor have opened doors to help people struggling with trauma, an all-too-common issue in conflict-affected South Sudan. With few resources available to local churches, the couple are also encouraging the translation of some tried and tested materials that will help people understand the Bible and grow in their faith.

"There is very little literature in Zande, so we're helping the people in Ibba to produce things in their own language. We've adapted the Alpha Course into Zande," adds Andrew. They have used this course to teach the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions, helping people to grapple with the challenges in their lives. The pastors have now been trained to lead the course themselves in their rural churches. When we recently met the Quills for lunch, Andrew shared that it is this course that he thinks has had the most impact on the church in their time in Ibba so far. We will miss meeting up with the Quills! Please join us in praying for the church in Ibba and the Quills as they support the team and community there.

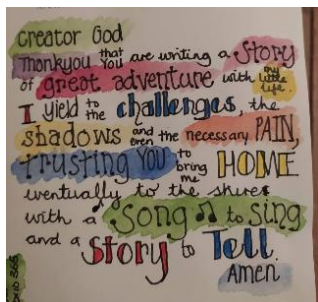
*(Photo top right: lunch by the Nile with Josefin – outgoing MAF SSD country director, the Quills and Jenny our comms officer who wrote part of this story and took the other photos)*







A wonderful local lunch and farewell at the office, with Butrus (left) and Kiir (right)



## Farewell to South Sudan

I copied this Lectio 365 prayer into my diary in 2020; it seemed most fitting as we stepped into a new adventure. Living this sort of life is a paradox, both good AND hard. We have witnessed amazing and desperately hard things, felt joy and pain, seen beauty and evil. And now we are indeed coming home to the shire (*Bedfordshire* to be exact) with a song to sing of God's goodness and stories to tell of the need, resilience and hope of the peoples of South Sudan. We are changed by this experience and are thankful to those who have upheld us in prayer, provided financially or journeyed with us in person in program in Juba. We were able to leave well, which is a gift for which we are thankful.



Last visits to train new teachers at Hope and Future Christian Centre and say goodbye to students and teachers. Susanna and Andrew have been good friends



British afternoon tea and Swedish fika with the MAF international team plus a wonderful bead making workshop with the ladies for me and bike rides for John



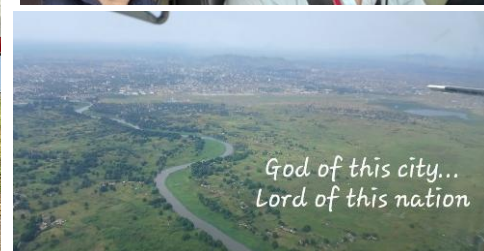
A surprise party, a song, some fun last lessons, a special devotions and a dressing up day at JCA



Our final church service



The 'Feil Farewell Flight' as Pilot Ide called it, began at 6am as we were waved off by our compound friends, followed by take-off from Juba to Nairobi where we will now spend a few days before returning to the UK



God of this city...  
Lord of this nation



## WHAT NEXT?

Whilst we are leaving South Sudan to return to the UK, we have not left MAF. First, we will have a couple of months resettlement – adjusting to life in the UK again, setting up our home, connecting with family and friends. We will continue to support MAF's work from the UK but in different roles. John will be managing an **Ops project in East Africa**, ensuring a more flexible and efficient use of our fleet in the region to serve those who need it most. He will be working part-time at the new MAF office based at Cranfield University, close to our UK home. He will also be providing operational support to programs as needed. We will both, for example, be travelling to **Chad in mid-January through to the end of March** to cover the paternity leave of the Ops manager there, our old South Sudan team friends, Tobias and Moriah. Whilst in Chad, I will be providing some educational support to the small mission school in N'djamena. From the UK, I will also be exploring ways to support children in MAF families overseas. Currently, this involves writing a '**Third-Culture-Kid informed**' curriculum which we will use at orientation events to help prepare children of MAF families to live overseas – this is likely to be held overseas in March and July 2026.



We value having a team of partners praying for us and the work of MAF. We would also like to continue to help cover our costs so that more of the money raised by MAF can go to the projects themselves. **For this reason, we would invite you to continue partnering with us in this next phase of our calling to bring help, hope and healing to isolated communities.** However, we understand that circumstances may have changed since you first agreed to join our team. Therefore, if you no longer want to receive our prayer letters, please let us know. If you currently give financially and do not wish to continue, then please contact Adam Pope at MAF UK [adam.pope@maf-uk.org](mailto:adam.pope@maf-uk.org) or if you give by Standing Order, please contact your bank. If this applies to you, we want to thank you for your generosity and prayers during our time in South Sudan. You have helped to transform and save lives. On behalf of all those people and communities, and ourselves, please receive our deepest thanks and appreciation.

For those who will continue on this journey with us, thank you. We will continue to keep you up to date with our work and that of MAF (maybe not *Journal from Juba*...but *Journal from* wherever we are sent!). If you have any questions do let us know or contact Adam ([adam.pope@mafuk.org](mailto:adam.pope@mafuk.org)). If you would like to meet up once we are back in the UK, do let us know. We will be planning to visit churches throughout 2026. We are currently nailing down our trips overseas and will be able to make plans for church visits soon, so do get in touch if you'd like us to speak about MAF's work to reach remote communities with God's love.



It has been a great privilege to serve with MAF as part of the South Sudan team. We have learnt so much about ourselves, the country, its history and its people and it has been humbling to see our great God at work. Thank you so much for reading our news, and for getting in contact directly too. We would love to catch up with you in person to say thank you for your love and support and hope that many of you will continue to follow and support us in the next season of adventuring with MAF, a journey that began for us with a crazy God-given idea over 10 years ago!

With love and gratitude,

*John Tracey*



### We give thanks for...

- The church community at St James', Jebel Yesua as they continue to process grief, trauma and work towards reconciliation
- The amazing national team who continue to serve MAF through the good and hard in Juba.
- The way God has led us into a season of new service for 2026

### Please pray with us for...

- Abigail, Marianne and the teaching team at JCA as they manage a year that lacks consistency
- Our transition back to the UK – and for those we leave behind. Constant change in the international team is hard. Pray for our friend Josefin who is heading back to Sweden, and for incoming country director David Bebb and his family, newly arrived from the UK
- The new classes for Hope and Future Christian Centre - especially as Mama Linda and Susanna select 26 children from the 100+ who are eligible.
- For provision, justice and peace to come to every community in South Sudan – intercommunal conflict and government attacks have increased significantly this year.