



The PARKER POST

Kampala

May 2024

Time flies, and this year it seems to have flown faster than our MAF planes! We hope that your year started well. As we head towards the middle of 2024 we are making plans for another Home Assignment to visit supporters and family in the UK - more details below.

Andrew has enjoyed a busy flight schedule in the first part of 2024. Our regular shuttles to the NE and NW of Uganda continue to be popular, with the occasional flight to the SW too and our weekly shuttle to Yambio in South Sudan.



In early April there was a need for a pilot to cover some flying in South Sudan due to one of their pilots being unwell. The request came through on a Tuesday morning and by Wednesday afternoon Andrew was on his way to Juba where he was based until the end of the week. Andrew really enjoyed being back in South Sudan for a few days and seeing some of the airstrips which were part of his day-to-day work a few years ago.

One of the privileges of working with MAF is meeting missionaries who are involved in God's work in many different spheres. Last week, both Andrew and Liz were able to spend time with a team from "Beyond Uganda". Their mission is "to see communities develop through empowering women, educating children and restoring families." We were inspired by the commitment of the team to serve God using their time and resources and by their genuine passion for sharing God's love. It is amazing to hear how their work impacts communities to help provide pathways for women and children toward self-sustainability. To find out more about their work, you can visit their website: <https://beyonduganda.org/>

Rainy season is here again in East Africa and the rains have been very heavy in parts of Uganda. Kenya, our neighbour to the east, has had a particularly wet start to the season and flooding has affected many people with some losing their homes and some have even died in the floods. MAF's disaster response team is responding to the situation in Kenya and flights will be taking place there to help with the relief efforts.

Another effect of the heavy rains in the region is that the water level in Lake Victoria is rising once again. Many of you may remember that the rising water levels flooded part of our runway at Kajjansi Airfield (our home base) in 2020 causing significant disruption to our operations. According to the statistics the lake is now higher than it was in 2020 and so, despite our runway having been raised slightly with additional layers of murrum, there is a real risk of the runway being flooded again. Please pray with us that the waters will recede and that our runway will be able to remain operational during this season.



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

It is also exam season this month here in Kampala, as it is in England at this time of year! All three Parker kids will be sitting end of year exams throughout this month.

However, Esther's exams will be her last set of school exams. Followed by her High School Graduation on May 31st. This date will mark the end of Esther's days as a school pupil and the start of a new chapter!

In June, Esther will travel with us to England, where she will be based for the next few months as part of a 'gap year'. Plans for university are on hold until 2025, allowing Esther time to consider her options before decisions about studying are made. It will be exciting for her, but hard for us (maybe mostly for Liz!) to leave Esther behind when we board the plane to return to Kampala in July.

Ben and Joel will continue their schooling in Kampala, with Ben starting the equivalent of

Year 12 in August and Joel Year 9. Liz continues to teach Grade 1 (Year 2) at the same school and is enjoying the challenge and the fun and energy of her young students.

This summer while we are in England we have a few MAF talks on the calendar. Please note the following dates:

Sunday 30th June - St. Michael's church, Chester Square, London

Sunday 7th July - All Saints Church, Ilkley, Yorkshire

Sunday 21st July - St. John's Church, Burscough- Liz to talk at 11am and 7pm

Thank you for all of your prayers and support - it enables MAF to operate here in Uganda and we are so thankful for each of you. We always love hearing from you and hope to be able to see many of you on our UK visit!

Sending much love from us all,

Liz, Andrew, Esther, Ben and Joel XXXXX