

December 2024

Christmas greetings from Kampala. It's hard to believe that another year has passed and we are celebrating Christmas again. We'd like to share a little of what's been going on here in Uganda over the past few months both in our work and in our family.

MAF helps to bring Hope and Encouragement Last week, the pastor of our church here in Kampala gave the congregation a presentation documenting his recent mission trip to South Sudan. He had joined a team from the organisation Every Village as they travelled to remote parts of South Sudan to teach at a series of pastors' conferences.

The team travelled between the different locations in South Sudan on MAF aircraft and although Pastor Martin (pictured front left) admitted that he really doesn't like flying, without MAF this kind of outreach would be extremely difficult. To find out more about the amazing impact of the work of Every Village click on the short video clip on the Every Village website www.everyvillage.org/what#radio.



It is always encouraging to hear how MAF planes enable the work of incredible organisations such as "Every Village" to spread the good news of Jesus. We hope that learning about the work of such organisations can encourage you, too, as we enter this Christmas season and remember that Jesus came to bring hope to the nations (Matthew 12:21).

Andrew has been kept busy with the flying in and around Uganda with the regular mix of shuttles and charters. Last week Andrew flew some donors to Cure Children's Hospital in eastern Uganda where he joined the group on a tour of the 4 new operating theatres which are under construction. The hospital currently has 3 operating theatres and already carries out almost 2,000 surgeries per year, specialising in the treatment of conditions including hydrocephalus, spina bifida and brain tumours.

The modern new facilities, with significantly larger operating theatres, should be operational in the first half of next year. If you would like to read more about the incredible work at Cure Children's Hospital visit their website at [/www.cure.org/hospitals/uganda](http://www.cure.org/hospitals/uganda)



News from the Parker People Like many of you, we are anticipating the end of the school term, the end of exams for Ben and Joel and the upcoming Christmas holidays! We are thankful that Esther will be visiting for Christmas, which is a huge highlight for us.

At school, we have had a sad time after one of the Year 2 students tragically passed away two weeks ago. Six year old Elijah was in the adjacent Y2 class, but many of Liz's students were in a class with him last year and he sometimes joined Liz's classes for certain lessons. It was a huge shock to students, parents and teachers. Please could you pray for his family at this time.

The school chaplain and counsellors have been a huge support to our school community. They have encouraged the children and staff to remember the enthusiasm of Elijah when he sang the following song, which all of our Y2 students performed at the school Uganda Independence Celebration in October. The lyrics remind us that, while we grieve, we also remember the gift that each person is to us in our lives. [This link](#) will take you to YouTube version of the song that the children sang along to.

Last Saturday Liz had a special afternoon with our church Ladies Bible Study group. We enjoyed the fun-filled game, Pass the Parcel- with a difference! Each time the Christmas music stopped, the lady holding the parcel unwrapped a layer of gift-paper to uncover a card with one of the names of Jesus and a Bible reference. We looked up the reference and chatted together about what significance that particular name may have for us.



Liz was especially struck by the name "Dayspring" - a less familiar name (Luke 1:78-79 and Isaiah 9:2). Its meaning is so encouraging. Jesus is the one who, like the sunrise, reliably and beautifully shines in our lives, day after day. The Dayspring, like the rising dawn, shines guidance for each day and can bring a new dawn of hope during seasons of difficulty.

Luke 1:78-79: "Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

We pray that you can be encouraged by this significant name of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate His birth this Christmas time. THANK YOU for all of your love and prayers for us and support for the work of MAF. We highly appreciate you all. We wish each of you a hope-filled and special Christmas!

With lots of love from us all in Kampala, **Liz, Andrew, Ben and Joel XXXX**