

# Legacy Newsletter 2024 ✈️



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Losing a loved one is never easy. Earlier this year, my dear Grandma May Lyons passed away.

She lived to the remarkable age of 102! At her thanksgiving service, the song 'I Can Only Imagine' by MercyMe brought me to tears as I reminisced about the joyful memories of my childhood, and found comfort in knowing that she is now in heaven with her Lord and Saviour.

Some of my earliest recollections of my Grandma include learning to bake scones and cakes with her, collecting limpets for Grandad's fishing trips, and picking blackberries. In her later years, we enjoyed games of Scrabble and giant jigsaw puzzles.



Her favourite Bible verse was 'The joy of the Lord is my strength', which truly reflected her life and her unwavering faith in Jesus, even during challenging times.

Grandma loved MAF and requested that donations be made to this life-saving organisation in her memory. A MuchLoved tribute page was created for friends and family to donate and share photos and memories.

Another person who is passionate about MAF's mission is Max Gove, and I'm delighted to share with you the lasting legacy he's created.

Blessings

*Miniam Wheeler*

**Miriam Wheeler**

Legacy Manager, MAF UK

## A lasting legacy

**Max Gove has dedicated more than 50 years to serving with MAF**

His passion for mission stories began early when he heard a particularly poignant one. At the age of seven, Max learnt about the tragic death of MAF pilot Nate Saint.

Nate and four other missionaries wanted to reach the Waodani Indians in Ecuador by landing on a river sandbar near their village.



*Where there's a Will  
there's a plane ✈️*



Having established contact with the tribe by air, they finally hoped to meet them. But on 8 January 1956, the scheduled radio call from Nate didn't come through.

The next day, a flyover revealed that their plane had been stripped and, by 13 January, it was confirmed that Nate and his four companions had been murdered. This dark time had a deep effect on the MAF family.



Max recalls listening with his parents to the heartbreaking news on the BBC — a moment that left a lasting impression on him and so many others worldwide.

Years later, at 14, a visiting preacher gave Max the book *Jungle Pilot*, through which Max felt a clear calling to become an MAF pilot. Despite doubts about a minister's son being able to afford flight training, Max began his training in Bedford four years later, where he also met his wife Susan.



Then, in late 1965, MAF Home Director Steve Stevens contacted Max, highlighting the charity's desperate need for pilots and available funds. Thanks to a generous gift to MAF, Max received the financial support he needed. Max and Susan were accepted for service in 1971, marking the start of nearly 13 years' service in Africa.



They cherished their many rewarding flying experiences and the connections they made with local people. By the time they left Africa, they also had four beautiful daughters.

Since returning to the UK, Max has held various roles and has initiated many of MAF's new programmes. These include Madagascar, Uganda, Timor-Leste and Liberia. He now serves as an MAF board member.

**Here we find out more from Max about the gift he and Susan have decided to leave to MAF in their Wills.**



TOP LEFT MAF Pilot Nate Saint with his yellow plane

BOTTOM LEFT Nate's destroyed MAF Piper PA-14 Family Cruiser

TOP RIGHT Max Gove flight training at 18 years old in a Cessna 150

BOTTOM RIGHT Max and Susan Gove





## What did you love most about being an MAF pilot?

Seeing the difference the plane made to sharing the Gospel and bringing help to people in remote areas.

## What was it like starting new programmes for MAF?

It was exciting to gather the research and explain to people that an aircraft wasn't just a luxury but a crucial tool for accessing new areas. Engaging with government officials was challenging, because some were either seeking bribes or didn't understand that our goal was to help people rather than make money. The key to launching new programmes was identifying the unique impact that MAF could have in that country.

## Is there still a great need?

Yes — more than ever! There is a call from millions of hurting and vulnerable people for a legacy of hope and a future. MAF continues flying for life so it can offer many a real 'future' in Jesus Christ.

## Thank you so much for including a gift to MAF in your Will. What motivated you and Susan to do so?

We were keen to continue serving vulnerable people in remote places and to bring them help, hope and healing, as we have done throughout our lives.

## How did you find using the free Will service provided by Bequeathed?

It was very straightforward and easy!

# Help writing or updating your Will



## Request our Will guide

If you have any questions about writing or updating your Will, why not request our **FREE** Will guide *Never Forgotten*?

To receive a copy, please phone **01303 852819** or email [miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org](mailto:miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org)

## Write or update your Will for free

We're pleased to be able to offer our supporters the opportunity to write or update a simple Will for free. We work with two trusted organisations to help make writing your Will as straightforward as possible. You can choose to either write a free online Will with **Bequeathed** or find a local solicitor through the **National Free Wills Network**.

**bequeathed**   
make your Will For Good

 **NATIONAL  
FREE WILLS  
NETWORK**

While there is no obligation to do so, after providing for family and friends, we would be really grateful if you would consider including a gift to us in your Will. Your legacy will enable MAF to bring help, hope and healing to future generations.

**To find out more, please visit**  
**[www.maf-uk.org/legacy](http://www.maf-uk.org/legacy)**

*Where there's a Will  
there's a plane* 

# Little Eliazer returns home with MAF after a health scare

Max helped start MAF's Timor-Leste programme in 2007. Since then, our aircraft have been integral to a wide range of humanitarian projects around the country

Thanks to our partnership with the country's Ministry of Health, we annually carry out more than 300 medical emergency airlifts from remote regions to the country's main hospital in the capital Dili.

One of our flights was for Eliazer Levi da Silva — a two-day-old baby boy flown by MAF to Guido Valadares National Hospital for urgent treatment for meconium aspiration syndrome.

The condition, caused by newborns inhaling meconium and amniotic fluid, required immediate care. Instead of a perilous, 6-hour drive from Suai to Dili, MAF pilots Joe Farren and Ping Domtta flew Eliazer to hospital in just 25 minutes, saving his life.

After a month in hospital, MAF also flew Eliazer back home — reuniting him with his family. His father Onorio da Silva shares:

'We are very grateful that MAF provided us with extra help to fly us back home. They have really shown us how much they care for the Timorese people.'

One in five MAF flights are made possible thanks to gifts in Wills. Legacies to MAF help us to ensure that more lives, like Eliazer's, can be saved and transformed.

**'Many, LORD my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us. None can compare with You; were I to speak and tell of Your deeds, they would be too many to declare.'**

— Psalm 40:5 (NIV)



## Soaring Together Our first virtual legacy event

We recently held our first-ever virtual legacy event, *Soaring Together: Spotlight on Uganda*.

Supporters were inspired by powerful stories of transformation, and heard about exciting new plans for MAF's work in Uganda. They also discovered how their support can create a lasting legacy of hope for generations to come.

We'd encourage you to watch the recording, so scan the QR code or visit our website [maf-uk.org/soaring-together](https://maf-uk.org/soaring-together)

Enjoy!

### Did you know?

Any gift to MAF in your Will is exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Also, you may qualify to pay Inheritance Tax at a reduced rate of 36% if you leave at least 10% of your net estate to charity.



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