



Dear Friends,

This is our 2nd newsletter as we move forward on our journey of joining Mission Aviation Fellowship and moving to South Sudan.

We've had a good few months since we last wrote in early February. A highlight has been the trip David and Sophia were able to take to South Sudan in February half term. The week spent there was a great opportunity to meet and build relationships with new colleagues and to see and begin to understand the work and programme a bit better. We joined one of the shuttle flights from Juba (image above) which was flying a number of NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) staff to one of their programmes. Sophia got to sit up front for part of the journey and enjoyed the experience.



Sophia was also able to attend what will be her and Nathaniel's new school for 3 days - [Juba Christian Academy \(JCA\)](#). She really enjoyed getting to know her new teachers and making friends with new classmates. This was a really helpful time in terms of facilitating a good transition from leaving school in London and moving to Juba. JCA are currently looking for additional teachers and so if you're someone with a background in education, this might be something for you to consider!!

Instability

After decades of struggle and conflict, South Sudan gained independence in 2011. It was a time of joy, freedom, relief and hope. But in 2013, two of the major groups flying a number of NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) staff to one of their programmes. Sophia got to sit up front for part of the journey and enjoyed the experience.

turned on each other, sucking in other parties as well, as the country descended into 5 years of civil war. The Revitalised Peace Agreement was signed in 2018, bringing an end to the fighting and paving the way for lasting peace. Whilst there have been challenges in its implementation, progress has been made. But in March this year, an uprising began in Nasir, with an armed Group, the White Army, driving Government forces out of the town. The Government responded by launching an offensive and arrested many officials they suspected of involvement, including the Vice President. Clashes then erupted across the country and, as always, local populations were most impacted, being forced to flee the conflict, with over 4,500 internally displaced people arriving in the capital Juba in April alone. MAF staff also evacuated some of their families to Kenya and Uganda. Thankfully, things have not descended into a full return of all out civil war but tensions remain high and localised clashes are a near daily occurrence. Pray for peace and reconciliation, alongside addressing root causes.

Throughout this time, MAF have continued to serve isolated communities and support other agencies in their work - the image below is of a recent flight transporting cargo for Tearfund for a water and sanitation project in a remote area.



The Family

We're continuing to move forward in this season. David has been completing a number of training courses and inductions and we've been building our network of churches and individuals who will journey with us.

Judith has returned to work as a Physio after maternity leave and is now serving out her notice period and so will finish up with the NHS in July before we both attend the MAF global induction week.

Sophia, Nathaniel and Naomi continue to be wonderful, with the older two looking forward to the big move. Naomi is now up walking and is mostly interested in climbing anything and everything. One point of concern for us is having been told by doctors that Nathaniel requires an operation on his eye to correct vision issues. We've already had two dates for the operation cancelled and don't yet have a new date so we're hoping this will be confirmed shortly with a date in June or July. We would love your support in praying for a date to be confirmed soon and that this won't get cancelled again!

Ministry Partnership

MAF's approach is to send staff overseas who have a team behind them who are praying with them, the work they are doing and who are contributing financially to the work. We want to say a massive thank you to those of you who have chosen to support the work of MAF, through us. But we're still some way off our fundraising target and so if you haven't already, we want to ask if you would prayerfully consider supporting us.

If you would like to partner with us financially, please get in touch or you can also go straight to our MAF webpage online www.maf-uk.org/bebb

We believe the work of MAF is brilliant and they play a key role in supporting isolated communities in South Sudan.

Thanks for reading this far!

If we haven't caught up with you recently, we'd love to hear your news too.

With love and thanks,
David and Judith