



FLYING FOR LIFE

MAF UK'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE | JUL-SEP 2025



Living water

Tackling pollution
in Uganda

Overcoming isolation together

The day the King met MAF



FLYING FOR LIFE
SINCE 1945

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Front cover

MAF is flying for life in Kenya

Elvis Lemaiyan

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in over 25 countries. Operating more than 115 aircraft, MAF's pilots overcome terrain that has become inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disaster, or violent conflict. MAF aircraft fly into more than 1,000 destinations — transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries where they are needed most. Each flight brings practical help, spiritual hope and physical healing to thousands of isolated people in remote communities for whom flying is a lifeline not a luxury. **MAF is flying for life.**

MAF respects the indigenous people of Arnhem Land. We have tried to ensure that names and photographs of deceased indigenous people do not appear in our publications.

Flying for Life

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Wherever you see this symbol, it indicates a flight where MAF responded to a problem caused by the climate crisis, or transported a partner who supports creation care.



Thank you for 80 years!

Eight decades ago, with a world emerging painfully from the ruins of total warfare, Mission Aviation Fellowship was little more than a mustard seed of faith.

The first few brothers and sisters who were inspired by our original vision made heartfelt commitments of prayer, money and time that were enough to start a worldwide mission like no other — before or since.

However, it is you we have to thank for MAF's survival, expansion and unique ability to serve isolated people. Every person you read about in this issue is a seed you have nurtured with your love.

God bless you.



Read more about
MAF in Kenya
on page 4

📷 Elvis Lemaiyan



Shaping the future

As spring becomes summer, signs of change in the natural world are inevitably everywhere.

MAF is in the middle of its own season of change — one which reflects the ever-shifting world in which we fly. With every flight you help fund, the boundless love of God is breaking through, transforming the lives of countless isolated men, women and children.

In this, our 81st year, we are earnestly seeking His guidance as to what MAF will look like 20 years from now.

So the support you give us now not only solves the immediate problems facing thousands of remote people, it lays the foundations for a future where MAF will be able to double its life-saving provision by the time we reach our centenary.

In this issue, revolutionary change in rural Kenya means disabled children are no longer treated with scorn (page 4). Meanwhile, in Uganda, the worldwide scourge of pollution is being tackled on our very own airfield (page 11).

Alongside these recent changes, we continue to fight the good fight against disease and warfare in our longest-serving programmes — Papua New Guinea (page 10) and South Sudan (page 12).

Thank you for 80 years of flying for life.

A stylized signature of Donovan Palmer in white ink.

Donovan Palmer
Chief Executive, MAF UK



Read more about MAF
in Guinea on page 5

Out of the shadows

REPORT HILLIM GITONGA / STORY RICHARD CHAMBERS / PHOTOS ELVIS LEMAIYAN

In February, we flew a team from CURE to two remote northern Kenyan communities where a revolution in the lives of disabled children has begun

Two doctors, a physiotherapist, an orthopaedic technologist, a clinic co-ordinator and a pastor travelled with MAF to Lodwar and Lokichar — saving 7 precious hours which a 300-mile journey from Nairobi would otherwise devour.

We were also able to fly medical supplies and equipment to enable treatment for conditions as diverse as clubfoot, bowlegs, knock knees, burn contractures, cleft lip and palate, and cerebral palsy.

Due to strong partnerships with community pastors, people were informed well in advance of the two day-long clinics taking place. So they were able to set out from their villages in good time.

With the help of partner organisation Missions of Hope International, the CURE team examined 60 patients, referring children in need of advanced procedures to its hospital in Kijabe. Local volunteers assisted the team by preparing meals for the people attending the clinics.

CURE Communications Officer Elvis Lemaian says, 'Without MAF, travelling by road would be too expensive and too risky. It would take longer to reach the destination, meaning less time to see as many patients as possible.'



'This was my first CURE safari,' says MAF Pilot Joost de Wit (right), 'and it was a good experience. A lot of children were being treated. It was nice seeing CURE at work and I'm looking forward to flying them again soon.'

Most heartening of all is the shift in perception regarding disability. Children who used to be hidden by their families are now being brought forward in droves to receive the expert care they so desperately need.

To reach a level of trust like this, which is dismantling centuries-



old superstitions and stimulating a cultural revolution, has taken decades of patience from health professionals, and tremendous commitment to prayer from MAF family members.

CURE has planned follow-up visits for the children which will require more MAF flights.

**Families
have
stopped
hiding
their
children**





All aboard!

REPORT + PHOTOS JOEL CONTE
STORY GARY CLAYTON

What do a church volunteer, an accountant and a politician all have in common? MAF flights in Guinea

Operations Supervisor Robert Koundouno serves in our Guinea programme. Having travelled to remote Kissidougou in our Cessna Caravan, he knows the crucial part that aviation plays in the lives of people travelling to and from isolated communities.

Robert uses his precious vacation time to train young people in a farming community. 'Usually, we come to Kissidougou by road,' he says. 'It not only takes time but there is also the fatigue and risk it entails.'

'So I saved time and energy with MAF and arrived in less than 90 minutes. It was very pleasant.'

Another passenger who flew with us to Kissidougou is Dorcas Nema Dione, a member of Guinea's National Assembly. Having reached the city, the politician then drove for over an hour to Macenta, where her family lives.

'I give thanks to God,' says Dorcas (above right), 'and want Guineans to know that we can travel more than 600 miles in less than 3 hours.'

She says it's very important that her people embrace the many benefits of an MAF flight, noting, 'If I could get a direct flight to Macenta, I'd be very happy. I was there last July.'

'My younger brother died, so I wanted to attend the funeral. I came in a Toyota but the road was very bad, and it really wasn't easy.'

Another MAF flyer, accountant Yolande Holie (below right), also knows how difficult it is to travel overland.

Her mother Seny suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes. Flying from N'Zérékoré back to Conakry — after her mum received treatment at the N'zao Centre — is, for Yolande, the only realistic option.

'There are no roads in Guinea,' she explains, 'so when my mother's condition escalates, we prefer to go by air.'



Mission. Aviation. Fellowship

REPORTS + PHOTOS JAN IVAR ANDRESEN, JOEL CONTE,
MICHAEL PREST AND ANTSATIANA RANDRIANASOLO



FLYING FOR LIFE
SINCE 1945

The love of God is the foundation on which four Christian airmen began building a charity in 1945. Here are just a few examples of how the MAF family continues to help spread the Gospel 80 years on



Follow us on Instagram

Worship / Guinea

Five years after violent clashes burnt it down, the Evangelical Protestant Church of Dorota (below right) rises from the ashes. MAF flew engineers and church leaders to the site for the launch of a major rebuilding effort.

President of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Guinea Reverend Gédéon Beavogui (top right, second right) says, 'It's really a feeling of gratitude to God, because we've been waiting for this moment for at least four years.'

'I am truly grateful to our God, but I am also grateful to the authorities who were willing to honour their promises because they had committed to financing the reconstruction.'





Evangelism / Madagascar

Unevangelised Fields Mission (UFM) Worldwide has been working with UK churches since 1931 to send missionaries overseas.

On his first trip to Madagascar, UFM Worldwide Director Michael Prest (top left, right) made his first MAF flight in order to lead a retreat for Christian surgeons.

Michael expressed his gratitude, commenting, 'MAF does a great service by helping us get to places.'

Scripture / Papua New Guinea

Almost 75 years after we began flying here, the desire for God's Word is greater than ever. Your superb response to our New Year online request put printed and audio Bibles into the hands of hundreds of isolated Christians.

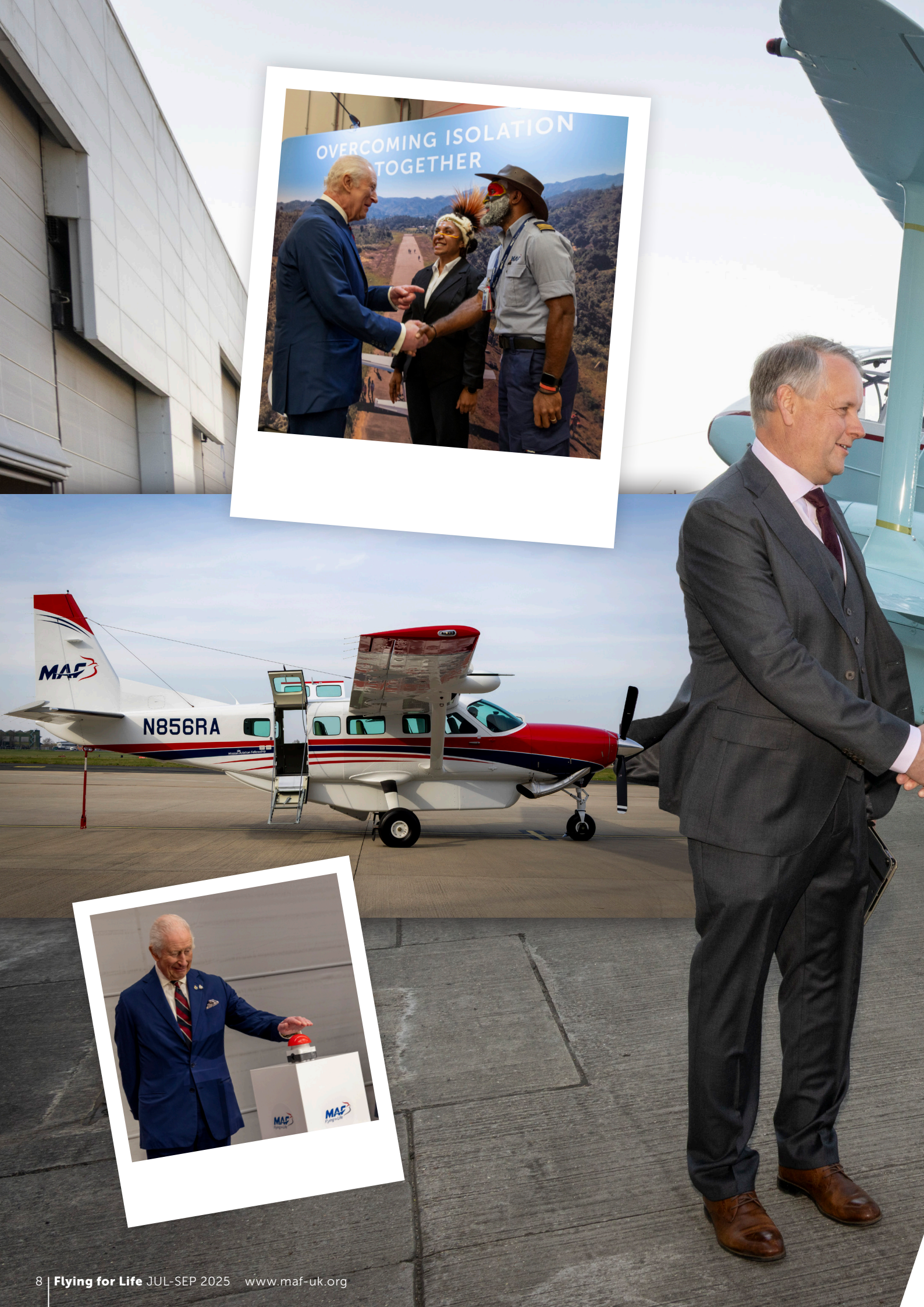
MAF Pilot Jan Klassen (right) says, 'Thank you very much for your generosity in donating towards flights for Bibles, which are having a huge impact on individuals and whole communities.'



Discipleship / Arnhem Land

MAF has spent many years working with Pioneers Australia. The latest fruit of our deep relationship with the mission being a spiritual retreat in one of northern Australia's homelands.

Dharrwar homeland was developed by Guymun and her family to be a place of meditation and spiritual growth. It's a special place where Christians can meet on traditional lands with Yolŋu brothers and sisters for fellowship and discipleship.



Overcoming isolation together

STORY CLAIRE GILDERSON / PHOTOS ANDY AITCHISON

On 3 April, His Majesty King Charles III unveiled MAF's latest addition to its fleet. The new Cessna 208 Caravan will serve the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG)

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



The King revealed the new aircraft to an excited audience at our special 80th anniversary event at RAF Northolt, West London — the Royal Air Force's oldest UK air base.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of a charitable trust, MAF's global fleet now comprises 118 aircraft. This new plane will fly to and from the remotest communities in PNG, where our largest programme has been operating since 1951.

The momentous day marked a double celebration as 2025 is also the 50th anniversary of PNG's independence. One of our wonderful supporters kindly brought along his Dragon Rapide biplane (main photo) to mark the auspicious occasion.

MAF UK Chief Executive Donovan Palmer invited the King to press a big red button, which revealed the shiny, new Caravan as the hangar door lifted behind him.

Among the crowd were donors, dignitaries, supporters and staff, including several PNG nationals who were introduced to the King.

MAF Pilot Joseph Tua has worked in PNG since 2019. Proudly wearing his country's ceremonial face paint, Joseph (top left) was particularly excited to meet the King — a fellow pilot who'd learnt to fly many decades ago with the Royal Air Force.

'To be invited to the UK for the commissioning ceremony of our newest aircraft and to meet the King is insane!' said Joseph. 'MAF carries everything from patients to tonnes of coffee, sweet potatoes, peanuts and oranges. This new aircraft will help us do a lot more.

'I never dreamt this amazing thing could happen to me. To be a part of this ceremony means everything. I am eternally grateful.' By flying this plane, Joseph will serve his people.

Fellow Papua New Guinean Serah Michael — MAF PNG's Flight Operations Supervisor — is the main contact for emergency flights. It was her first visit to the UK.

'I am super-excited!' said Serah (top left). 'I never thought I would ever visit the UK. I am proud to be part of this great international organisation bringing help, hope and healing. MAF is truly a lifeline to rural communities in my country.

'I'm just amazed and excited to meet the King. I'm honoured to be at this ceremony — it's the experience of a lifetime!'



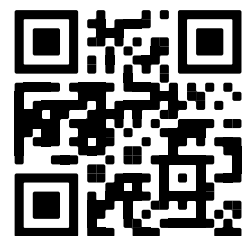
YOU KEEP US FLYING FOR LIFE!

The men, women and children you read about in this magazine receive help, hope and healing because **YOU** continue to pray and give to MAF.

In Kenya, parents have stopped hiding children once scorned for conditions such as cleft palate and cerebral palsy.

The full story on page 4 tells how your compassion ensures — in the words of MAF Pilot Joost de Wit — that our support continues, as we'll be 'flying them again soon.'

Please scan the QR code or make a gift overleaf so that our pilots and planes can bring you more stories of the people whose lives your love has changed.



**SCAN ME TO
DONATE**



WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/FFLGIVE

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'MAF is our only ambulance'

REPORT MICHELLE DAUTH / STORY GARY CLAYTON
PHOTOS MANDY GLASS

Whether it's snakebite or 'sorcery', MAF flights make a huge difference to the people of Dodomona

Growing up in Dodomona, in the north-eastern corner of the Middle Fly District of Papua New Guinea's Western Province, Titus Yabua struggled to accept the fact that many members of his community were dying from treatable illnesses, accidents and snakebites.

Wanting to do something about these often-preventable tragedies, Titus (bottom, centre) trained as a community health worker.

'Sometimes, I used to question why we were placed in a community where we don't have road access,' he says. 'But God doesn't make mistakes. He knows the reason why He placed us in such a remote area.'

Titus, who's served his people faithfully for more than 2½ years, explains how the perception of sickness and death in his local community has changed significantly.

In addition to treating patients or referring them to the appropriate medical facility, Titus shares how,

'We now go from village to village educating people and helping them realise that diseases aren't caused by sorcery.'

Thanks to Titus' initiative, villagers no longer regard a two-month-old cough as being caused by witchcraft but now understand it's probably TB.

'MAF,' smiles Titus, 'is our only ambulance — our only hope. We work according to our limits and, when we can't handle a particular case, MAF steps in and helps us.'

Our flights clearly make a vital difference, with Titus describing the time a pregnant mother needed to be transferred from Dodomona to Mougulu so she could receive urgent medical assistance.

Unfortunately, her condition deteriorated in Mougulu, so MAF Pilot Jan Ivar Andresen stepped in

— his emergency medevac enabled the ailing mother to reach Tabubil District Hospital safely.

Having heard that he's been accepted at Rumginae School of Nursing, Titus hopes that he'll be able to provide even better medical care for his community when he returns, knowing that MAF will also be on hand whenever our aircraft are urgently needed.



'BUT GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES. HE KNOWS THE REASON WHY HE PLACED US IN SUCH A REMOTE AREA.'





Living water

REPORT DAMALIE HIRWA

PHOTOS DAMALIE HIRWA + MARVIN MASINDE



As part of its mission to care for God's creation, MAF is encouraging its passengers to carry reusable water bottles on flights

Joe Weller leads a charity that enables orphans to go to school in Moyo, northern Uganda.

When MAF Uganda introduced reusable water bottles at its Kajjansi Airfield passenger terminal, Joe (top right) bought two of them.

'We've flown with MAF before,' he says, 'and want to support this environmental cause.'

For years, MAF Uganda offered bottled water on its flights, but this meant using non-recyclable plastic. What was once considered convenient is now one of the greatest threats to the planet.

'Working with our MAF Kenya colleagues, we designed two types of MAF branded water bottles,' says MAF Uganda's Country Director Ruth Jack (main photo, right). 'One is metallic with a sports lid and the other is a more elegant glass and bamboo creation.' (Joe bought two of the 'elegant' bottles!)

'We'll still provide a water fountain at our passenger terminal,' Ruth continues, 'so passengers can fill up before flying with us. Obviously, we don't want to risk people dehydrating in the heat of Uganda.'

MAF Uganda is building partnerships with other local leaders to establish projects that will help people to preserve their precious environment.

'Many of our staff live in Kajjansi and have suffered breathing problems from the amount of plastic that is burnt in their neighbourhoods,' Ruth explains.



'This is a common problem across Uganda, but if we work with the local community to educate and inform, we can help develop recycling good practice.'

Initially, MAF staff researched how rainwater flows through the community and how it collects and moves waste products — especially plastic.

They also looked at where rubbish was dumped and burnt, as a high proportion of this is washed down to Kajjansi Airfield where it clogs the drainage channels.

Ironically, it was when plastic became a problem for MAF that we realised we could be a big part of the solution to a problem which threatens us all.



**'IT FILLS
MY HEART
WITH JOY.'**

PILOT IISAKKI SAARI



Worth a thousand words

The state of Tambura, South Sudan, is famous for its tropical climate that has given rise to dense forests and fertile agricultural land, making it ideal for growing vital crops such as cassava, maize and peanuts.

At first glance, it seems an unlikely place for a humanitarian emergency. But armed conflict changes everything. When Medair — who took these beautiful photos — received an alert that warring gangs had disrupted local health services, its Emergency Response Team rushed to intervene.

However, the heavy rains that keep Tambura lush and fertile often make roads impassable — cutting off large parts of the region from emergency relief operations.

Thankfully, Medair's 30-year partnership with MAF meant that the solution was as quick as it was obvious. We were able to fly high above the floods to deliver a shipment of medical supplies to people like Rachael and her daughter Emma (below).

As MAF Pilot Iisakki Saari points out, 'Serving others and flying planes is a perfect match for me. It can be heartbreaking to see the needs of the people in this country. But, no matter what we bring them, it can make such a difference to them, and that fills my heart with joy.'





Loose change creates big change!



Please join us in celebrating our 80th anniversary by hunting your house for loose change. We want to transform your unwanted coins from around the world into something that will change the world!

Since the start of MAF's journey in 1945, we've depended on people like you. Generous supporters have powered every aircraft we use to serve isolated people around the world.

Our life-saving fleet knows no bounds — flying patients to hospital, children to school, and disaster response teams to remote areas torn apart by conflict and climate.

We listen to communities and empower their independence by delivering life's essentials wherever we can land a plane.

So, if you have a spare moment, we'd be very grateful if you could hunt your house for stray dollars, euros and any other non-sterling coins and notes lurking behind your sofas or in your pockets.

We'll be delighted to turn them into fuel for our fleet!

Send us your loose change to create big change.

Post any foreign currency you wish to donate to:

Joshua Oliver, MAF UK, Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2TQ.

Thank you for making all the difference!



The people of Africa bear the brunt of malaria's horrific curse. Across the continent, a child dies from malaria every minute of every day.

MAF pilots and planes will transform lives by delivering malaria medicine... if you can make a gift to send them to a remote hospital in South Sudan.

If you'd like to make a donation towards this special appeal, there's still time!



Scan the QR code or visit
www.maf-uk.org/fflminute



Ann's heart will go on

When Ann Margaret Shearer walked through the doors of Elmslie Girls' School in Blackpool as one of its first scholarship students, she could never have known the incredible effect that her life would have on so many others

Born in Lancashire in 1933, Ann's story is one of generosity and a life dedicated to guiding, teaching and helping those in need.

After graduating from Leeds University, she returned to her beloved school to teach French and Latin. Later, while at another school, Ann balanced her career with raising four children alongside her husband Doug in Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.

But Ann was far more than just a teacher. An adventurer at heart, she mastered seven languages and travelled the globe. Her remarkable life took her from Sri Lanka to Israel and from Germany to the USA, where two of her children now live.

At her core, Ann was a deeply compassionate woman of faith. A devoted member of St Chad's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde, she believed wholeheartedly in helping those less fortunate than herself.

Whether sponsoring children in Africa, offering support to struggling students, or donating to countless charities, Ann's generosity knew no bounds.

With an unwavering commitment to helping others, Ann's final act of love was leaving a gift to MAF in her Will — demonstrating how a caring heart can make a truly lasting impact.

Extraordinary gifts like Ann's ensure that we can continue bringing aid to remote and inaccessible communities around the world. We're truly grateful to everyone who chooses to partner with us in such a deep and meaningful way.

If you are interested in leaving a gift to MAF in your Will, please phone Miriam Wheeler on [01303 852819](tel:01303852819) or email miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org

To request a copy of our FREE Will guide, visit www.maf-uk.org/legacy

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



You speed their journeys!

Overcoming isolation doesn't always involve a cargo of life's essentials or an emergency flight request. Sometimes it's a case of dedicated people needing to save precious time and energy.

MAF Guinea provides a service which ensures that church volunteers, accountants and politicians arrive at their destinations as quickly as possible (see page 5).

Your kindness eases their stress – this is what flying for life looks like for the people we serve.

God bless you



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