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MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian organisation that is changing the world — one flight at a time. Our fleet of more than 100 aircraft enables tens of thousands of passengers every year to fly safely and swiftly over derelict roads, violent conflict and natural disasters. We fly food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries to isolated people in more than 1,000 remote communities. Practical help. Spiritual hope. Physical healing.

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.

Your response to the previous issue kept us flying for life in Uganda.

Front cover MAF is flying for life in Papua New Guinea Matt Painter

Flying for Life

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God bless you.

You keep us flying for life!

As the New Year beckons us in, so a new era for MAF begins. While 2025 was a time of praise for 80 amazing years, it was also a time of planning for the next 20.

Many months ago, an ambitious project began to expand our airline so that the MAF family can double the number of people it serves by the time our 100th birthday arrives!

This ambitious vision is rooted in the deep faith we all share in a God who provides 'immeasurably more than all we ask', and in the love you continue to show for isolated people worldwide.



I'm honoured to take up the role of MAF UK's Chief Executive. The past 12 years at this unique charity have shaped my heart and created a passion for reaching isolated people. I'm excited to serve alongside you, as this incredible MAF family continues to share God's love through aviation — bringing help, hope and healing where it's needed most.

The light that guides us

In several of the 27 countries where MAF operates, you can glimpse light-coloured stripes punctuating the darkness - small glimmers of light in an otherwise monotone landscape.

An airstrip provides a crucial target for our pilots and symbolises help, hope and healing to those living in the remote areas we serve. Nearly one billion people worldwide live in such conditions of isolation.

Now, in the December night, one light shines far brighter than any other. A stable and enduring presence that doesn't hang in the sky or at the top of a Christmas tree.

'I am the light of the world,' says the Bible about the Jesus whose birth we now celebrate. 'In His name the nations will put their hope."

This glorious light also shines in the hearts of generous supporters like you, our dedicated staff and the wonderful people we have the privilege of serving.

MAF seeks to be the light in the places where the needs are greatest — where communities would otherwise be completely isolated.

Thank you so much for giving us the privilege of sending the gift of light to men, women and children through your prayers and gifts.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas from all your brothers and sisters at MAF.

Mike Fagg Chief Executive, MAF UK



'Like the sun shining on us'

STORY MANDY GLASS + MATT PAINTER
PHOTOS MANDY GLASS, MATTHEW KAYA, AQUILA MATIT + MATT PAINTER

An aircraft is useless without an airstrip, which — in turn — is only as effective as its agent. These two stories from Papua New Guinea (PNG) illustrate the deep, abiding love its people have for MAF airstrips and agents

otally isolated from the outside world, the village of Dimanbil was ignored by every aircraft that passed overhead.

There was no school — the nearest being a four-day journey on foot. There was no hospital — medicines, midwives and malaria treatment were the stuff of dreams.

But the people of Dimanbil have determination in abundance. After four decades of back-breaking work with knives, sticks and bare hands, they carved an airstrip out of their incredibly dense jungle.

Today, countless smiles greet the landing of every MAF plane that touches down in Dimanbil.

Wokul Timoti (right), now an elderly woman, remembers the early days of digging a dream from the natural world.

'I don't know my exact birth date. When I worked on this runway, my hair had not yet turned grey. And now the plane has come! You brought the plane, and I'm so happy and singing because I see you here.'

Meton Kenan returned to Dimanbil after eight years away from his home village. He remembers four-day treks over ridges and rivers to reach the town of Telefomin — sleeping in small shelters along the way.

'We didn't have a school,' says Meton. 'We lived in the dense jungle. In the dark.'

Local government agent Milton Konsep echoes the villagers' feelings. 'We've worked extremely hard for 39 years. And now we're so happy that MAF lands here'

Deliveries of health and education supplies are now commonplace. Days of travel have been

transformed into minutes through the power of aviation.

This is a story of light through flight, as Wokul testifies when she utters the unforgettable sentence, 'The change is like the sun

shining on us.

'You must keep coming to our airstrip so I can witness even more changes in our lives,' she concludes. 'May God watch over you — and thank you for bringing the plane. It's wonderful!'



'My father left his home to do mission work here in Karimui in 1963,' says Kimin Mauwe. 'He came with MAF in an aeroplane with a wheel at the back and no wheel at the front.'

Throughout his childhood, Kimin flew back and forth with his father, eventually becoming a pastor himself in 1992. A year later, he started work as an MAF airstrip agent.

Across PNG and other countries, MAF relies heavily on airstrip agents appointed by church and community to prepare passengers and cargo for flight. They also communicate with route planners and provide invaluable weather reports.

'MAF has done a huge work in this country,' Kimin continues, 'it serves the bush people really well.

'One thing I love about MAF is, when a woman is about to give birth, the plane comes empty. MAF doesn't fill up with cargo first; it just comes only with the fuel it needs to pick up the passenger.

'All God's Word has pawa (Tok Pisin for 'power'),' Kimin testifies. 'People here buy many Bibles. When the plane comes to the airstrip, everyone gathers around the pilot and they buy them quickly!'

MAF pilots sell subsidised Bibles from the Bible boxes they carry on each flight to a remote community. When a town with a bookshop is so far away, bush people never take their Bible for granted.

'MAF makes it easy for us,' Kimin concludes. 'The pilots bring Bibles straight to our hands.'

'ALL GOD'S

HAS PAWA

(POWER)'

WORD



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Telefomin • **⊕**Mount Hagen Karimui PAPUA NEW GUINEA Port Moresby

MAIN The people of Dimanbil

BELOW A mountain airstrip in PNG **BOTTOM Pastor Kimin Mauw**



cloud of perpetual ill health

ulienne (top right) comes from a small village in Madagascar's eastern rainforest. When MAF flew a SALFA medical team (right) to Marolambo, she set out on foot with hope in her heart.

'I had to walk for a day and sleep on the way to get here,' says Julienne. But, having suffered for 20 years with obstetric fistula, she felt that every painful step would be worth it. The opportunity to receive free treatment from the experts at SALFA — the Malagasy Lutheran Church's health department was too rare and precious to ignore.

Two decades is a miserably long time to live with the pain and shame of a condition that leaves most women physically and socially isolated.

'I've been treated three times,' she explains, 'but nothing changed. This time, I'm thankful — they took good care of us and I am satisfied.'

Dozens of women received life-changing operations thanks to this one MAF flight from the capital Antananarivo — a classic example of an MAF medical safari, bringing both doctors and evangelists to Marolambo.

'People here live in very difficult conditions,' says Mahandrisoa Jemima Sambatriniaina of Real Mission Movement. 'Many are open to hearing the message of Christ. But there's still a lot of work to be done.

'It's not the first time we've come to Marolambo. It's very hard to reach, so most missions we do with MAF. We're thankful to them for providing us with this flight."

The Real Mission Movement evangelists trekked for hours along steep forest paths to share the Gospel in nearby villages.

For Julienne, her journey on a long, dark road ended that day. And this was more than just physical surgery — her dignity was finally restored.

There can be few greater examples of why the MAF family is committed to reaching the places — and the people — where few dare to go.



PLEASE PRAY FOR



- the remote jungle communities of Madagascar
- the medical safaris that combine physical and spiritual healing
- the staff of MAF Madagascar



A shadow of sorrow

STORY + PHOTOS ANNET NABBANJA

Katalina Maganga entered the world under a shadow of sorrow. Her mother died shortly after giving birth at home — something far too common in the remote Tanzanian village of Endanyawish

owever, Katalina was not left alone.
'I'm taking care of my daughter's baby,' says
her devoted grandmother Dabje, who prepares
cow's milk daily as a breast milk substitute for Katalina. 'I
want her to grow healthy and strong. If God wishes, I want
her to grow wisely.'

Life in Endanyawish makes even basic medical care difficult. Surrounded by rugged terrain and with no real roads in sight, a simple medical appointment requires a punishing six-hour journey on foot.

When MAF flew a medical team from Haydom Lutheran Hospital to Endanyawish, it made a world of difference for mothers and babies. For Dabje and Katalina (both pictured right), it meant life-saving care delivered right to their doorstep.

'Every time I want to go to the hospital, it's a sacrifice,' says Dabje. 'We spend the whole day going and coming back. Sometimes we don't return home until nightfall.

'If the plane stops coming, there's nothing else we can do.'

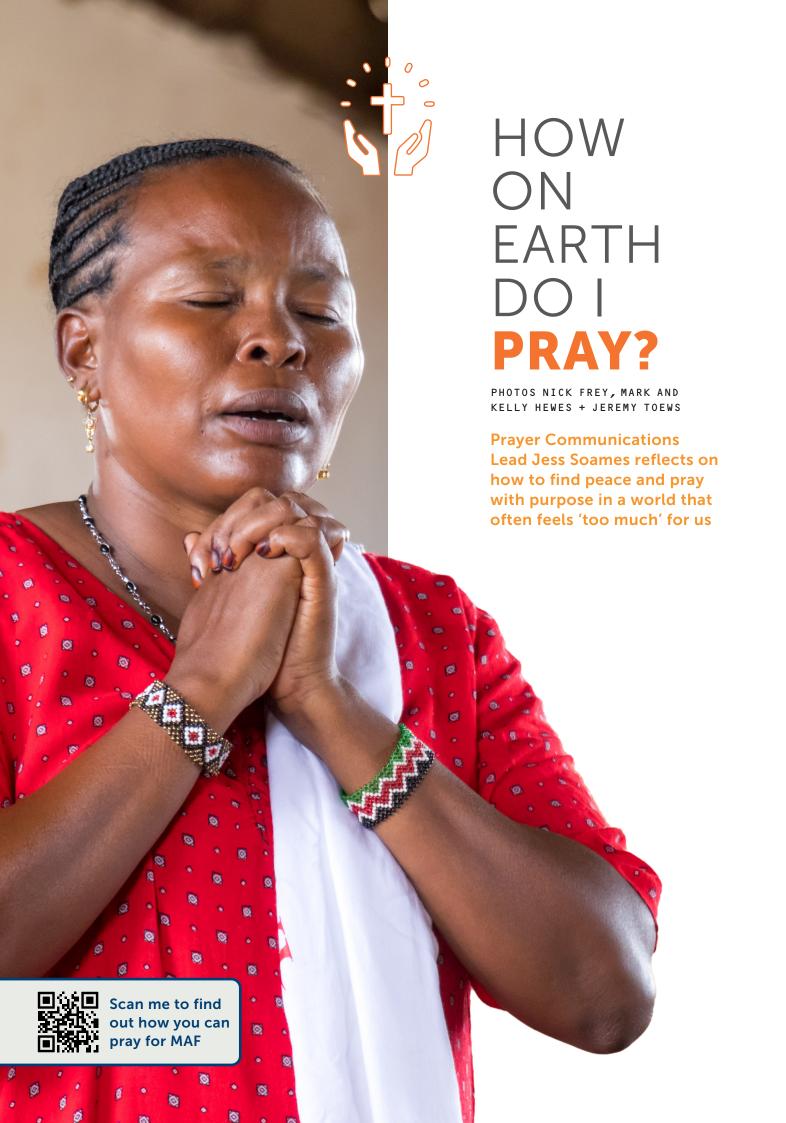
So, at just three weeks old, an MAF flight made it possible for Katalina to receive crucial vaccinations.

One of the Haydom team, Rehema Matfari, has been a nurse for 28 years. 'This work has real meaning because it helps both mother and child,' says Rehema. 'Children stay healthy because they receive all their vaccinations.

'We travel by plane because the clinics we go to are far away across mountains and valleys. MAF gives us the fast transport we need. The plane means we can help people in places that are otherwise unreachable.'

'Often, just a 20-minute flight means people can receive the help they need,' explains MAF Pilot Peter Griffin, who flew the team that day.





Have you ever sat down to pray and found yourself at a loss for words?

The needs of the world - wars, disasters, famines, injustice — can feel so vast, so heavy, that we don't even know where to begin. We may wonder, 'How on Earth do I pray? Do my prayers even make a difference?'

If you've ever felt this way, you're not alone.

THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

It's easy to feel paralysed by the scale of global suffering. The headlines are relentless, the needs endless. But Scripture doesn't ask us to carry the world on our shoulders - it invites us to bring it to the One who already does.

'Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand' - ISAIAH 41:10 (NKJV)

PRAYER IS NOT A PERFORMANCE

Prayer is not a performance. It's not about having the right words or the perfect posture. It's about relationship. It's about surrender. It's about reminding ourselves who God is — and who we are in Him.

In prayer, we process our fears and anxieties. We confess our limitations and declare our total dependence on Him. We are reminded that we are small but are held by a God who is not.

In His most overwhelming hour, Jesus turned to prayer. At Gethsemane, He poured out His heart to the Father. That communion gave Him strength to walk the path of obedience. If Jesus needed to pray, then how much more do we?



MAIN Praying in LogLogo, Kenya BELOW Praying in Nampa, USA BOTTOM Praying in Apahapsili, Papua



WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY

Start simple. Be honest. Here are a few things we can pray when we feel that the news we hear is overwhelming and the need is just too great:

- Pray for healing for those affected by crisis or illness to be relieved of anxiety and pain
- Pray for those in power for God to raise up people with integrity who will lead with wisdom and justice
- Pray for the helpers for the first responders, aid workers and volunteers
- Pray for the Church for Christians to rise up and shine their light in whatever situations they find themselves.

And - when even that feels like too much - a whispered, 'God, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done' is often the most powerful thing we can utter.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

James 5:16 tells us, 'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.' But even when we don't see immediate results, prayer is never wasted. It changes the spiritual atmosphere. It changes hearts. And — most often it changes us.

Through prayer, God gives us eyes to see beyond our present circumstances. He reminds us that He is still on the throne and we are still in the palm of His hand. Remember, John 16:33 tell us, 'Take heart! I have overcome the world."

SO, HOW ON EARTH DO WE PRAY?

We pray with honesty. We pray with hope. We pray because we are not alone and because God is always listening.



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 Papua New Guinea, pastor and airstrip agent Kimin Mauwe prepares passengers and cargo for flight.

The full story on page 4 tells how the subsidised Bibles which MAF pilots fly to remote communities are snapped up as soon as the 'plane comes to the airstrip.'

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.





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PLEASE USE MY GIFT TO HELP TRANSFORM PEOPLE'S LIVES FOR GOOD

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I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Mission Aviation Fellowship UK. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.



As six-year-old Juvenia played beneath the large mango tree in her front garden, she was bitten by a snake. Her village clinic had no anti-venom, which left her only hope of survival in the hands of MAF **Pilot Ping Domtta**

f there had been no MAF plane at that time, I don't think Juvenia would have survived,' says her mother Rosalia. Now fully recovered, the little girl ■ is back in school and looking forward to a joyful Chrismas.

In addition to being a pilot, Lungpinglak 'Ping' Domtta is the Country Director for MAF Timor-Leste. Days after Juvenia was back to full health, Ping and MAF Partnership Development Officer Yohanes da Costa Silva visited the family.

'MAF's journey isn't about flying our passengers from a to b and then forgetting about them,' says Ping. 'We want to be part of their lives, so it was great to follow up and spend some time with the family."

Juvenia's father Octaviano gave Ping and Yohanes a guided tour of the small family farm in Same. As hens clucked and scratched, Rosalia recounted what happened after the snake had bitten her daughter.

We took Juvenia to the village clinic, but they told us she needed transferring urgently to the national hospital because they had no anti-venom for her bite.'

An ambulance ride to the capital Dili would have taken four hours, during which she probably would have died. The MAF flight took 25 minutes.

'Every minute matters,' Ping concludes, 'so our medevac service here makes a crucial difference to people's lives. It brings a lot of joy to me and the team to share the experience of a girl who was in a critical condition and has since been discharged from hospital.

'Thanks to all MAF family members who support us. It is your contributions that keep giving hope to people in these remote communities.'







PARCHED GROUND



Esmara is MAF Chad's first female Country Director. She made time in her busy schedule to talk to Flying for Life about her big move to the African nation, her first impressions and the main challenges for the year ahead

arrived in the spring of this year. After a year of language school, Bible school and building a support network, I was eager to start.

My first impression of Chad was the heat! I arrived in the dry season where temperatures rarely fall below 35 degrees.

Water has never been such a blessing, and the words of Isaiah 41 - I will turn deserts into pools of water and parched ground into springs' — have taken on a whole new meaning.

The majority of Chadians are Muslim. One gets used to seeing men kneeling on their prayer mats at the side of the road, dressed in the traditional, white jalabiya. Every day, church bells mix with an imam's call to prayer.

These are daily reminders of my calling — to reach isolated people with the Gospel. So many people here have not heard the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I grew up in a small village in the Netherlands. After studying

International Development, I worked for two years in MAF Netherlands' fundraising team — travelling to Liberia, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste to measure the impact of MAF's work.

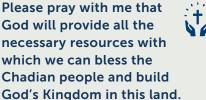
However, being a young woman without a background in aviation means the learning curve is a steep one. I'm truly blessed by the great team I have around me. One of our compound guards (right) named his daughter after me!

Chad is a huge country. Many roads are tracks in the sand which turn into mud pools during the rainy season. But MAF aircraft reduce days of travel to mere hours.

In eastern Chad (below), there is overwhelming suffering — desperate people constantly cross the Sudanese border. Tragically, there has been a cholera outbreak in one of the refugee settlements, so we're talking to partner organisations about how best we can help.



God will provide all the necessary resources with which we can bless the Chadian people and build God's Kingdom in this land.

















Worth a thousand words

he hope of the Christ Child bringing light into the world is reflected in Papua New Guinea's Mama Waiting Hut initiative, and these photos taken by MAF's Kowara Bell and Matt Painter.

For expectant mothers who must walk long distances for basic maternity care, the huts provide a shelter close to a health centre where they are guaranteed a safe, comfortable stay.

Most remote facilities in the country lack reliable electricity. Solar lighting installed by MAF Technologies in delivery rooms, postnatal wards and — of course waiting huts has transformed childbirth for staff and mums alike.

'They've truly saved many mothers' lives,' says Community Health Worker Ite Tona (top left).

'I crossed rivers and mountains just to reach the health centre to get medicine, before heading back home,' says mother-of-two Jemimah Ase (bottom left).

'For my second-born child, the pain was so intense I couldn't make it in time, so I delivered my baby beside a river in the village."

Nine months pregnant with her third child, Jemimah no longer fears the worst as she brings another life into the world.

We continue to support the initiative as it seeks to make childbirth safer throughout remote communities in Papua New Guinea.





In our previous issue, we introduced you to Co-Pilot — a new and vibrant community of young adults passionate about overcoming isolation. We can now announce two brand new, exciting fundraising opportunities for the young adults in your life

brighton marathon 12 april 2026

Do you know any 18-25 year-olds who may fancy the challenge of running 26.2 miles? We have three spaces in the Brighton Marathon in spring 2026!

It's a race that's famous for a more relaxed atmosphere than other major marathons and it also promises amazing views of the seafront.

Find out more at www.maf-uk.org/marathon



If either event sounds like it would interest someone you know aged 18-25, please show them this copy of Flying for Life.

isolation trial 4-6 september 2026

Unique to Co-Pilot, this event is not for the faint-hearted! We're looking to build a team of 16 young adults aged 18-25 willing to push their limits and test their resourcefulness as they navigate their way from real geographical isolation to a mystery location in the wilds of Scotland.

The team will experience several of the obstacles daily basis.

Find out more at www.maf-uk.org/trial

Hope for hurting hearts

When we lose someone we love, it's natural to look for ways in which to honour their life.

MAF's **Wings of Hope** tribute funds offer a lasting way to do just that, creating a meaningful link to your loved one, while also making a life-saving difference to others.

Setting up a Wings of Hope tribute fund is simple and free.

It provides a special online space where family and friends can share memories, photos and heartfelt messages — a place to remember, reflect and celebrate a life that meant so much to so many.

Whether it's lighting a candle, marking a birthday or simply pausing to remember a loved one, this space can offer comfort through the hardest times. And every gift given in memory of your loved one brings help, hope and healing to those in need of your support.

Each donation supports MAF's work — flying emergency medical aid, delivering essential services and sharing the transforming love of Jesus with isolated people across the world.

In this way, your grief becomes action and your love helps save lives.

'A Wings of Hope tribute fund is such a wonderful way to fire hope into the hurting hearts of those who've lost someone precious to them.'

These were Hilary's words when she set up a tribute fund for her father John, a faithful MAF supporter. It's been a comforting way for her family to honour his memory, knowing that — even in their sorrow — they're helping isolated people in urgent need of MAF's support.

A **Wings of Hope** tribute fund is a powerful, personal way to celebrate a life well lived and keep their story alive for decades to come.

For more information about
Wings of Hope, please visit
www.maf-uk.org/tribute-fund

scan the QR code or phone Sue Ambler on **01303 852819**





Your generosity is astounding. For our 80th anniversary, we asked you to hunt your house for unwanted foreign coins — and we're still counting them!

In the next issue of *Flying for Life*, we will have a total amount for you.

Thank you so much.











