

Where there's a Will
there's a plane 

2025 Legacy Newsletter



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

This year, we joyfully celebrated 80 years of MAF — a story of ordinary people, extraordinary faith, and a mission to bring help, hope and healing where it's needed most.

Every flight has only been made possible by God's faithfulness and the generosity of supporters like you.

We want to take this moment to thank you.

Your faith and commitment, alongside countless others, has sustained this mission across the decades — providing 80 years of lives saved and transformed through aviation.

In this newsletter, meet two valued supporters — Sue Lovatt and Chris Mathison — both born in 1945. By including a gift to MAF in their Wills, they're ensuring that their passion for mission continues long into the future.



*'WE WILL TELL THE NEXT
GENERATION THE PRAISEWORTHY
DEEDS OF THE LORD, HIS POWER,
AND THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE.'*

— PSALM 78:4 (NIV)

Excitingly, MAF's new floatplane has arrived in Uganda — ready to begin connecting Lake Victoria's most isolated communities! It will transform an arduous 8-hour boat journey into a swift 20-minute flight, bringing vital healthcare, education and hope to those who need it most.

I'm also delighted to share more about MAF's partnership with National Free Wills Network, which gives you the opportunity to write or update a simple Will for FREE.

There's no obligation to leave a gift to MAF but, if you do, your legacy could help keep our planes flying God's love to the ends of the earth.

Kind regards

Miriam Wheeler

Miriam Wheeler

Legacy Manager, MAF UK

If you would like to talk to me about legacies,
please phone **01303 852819** or email
miriam.wheeler@maf-uk.org





Sue Lovatt

Faith in action

How did your faith journey begin?

I grew up in Leek, North Staffordshire, and attended Sunday School, though my faith began to take root at teacher training college.

At 19, during a Christmas break, I attended an evangelistic meeting and realised my need for Christ. That moment set me on a lifelong journey of faith.

What drew you to MAF?

Reading *Through Gates of Splendour* by Elisabeth Elliot introduced me to MAF. That book changed my life, and I was deeply moved by the story of Jim Elliot and his commitment to sharing the Gospel.

Over the years, hearing about MAF's work at church events strengthened my connection and inspired me to support its mission.

What helps you feel connected to MAF?

I've always loved the *Prayer Diary*. Seeing the names and faces of those serving and those being helped makes it feel real and personal. It reminds me that MAF isn't just planes — it's people.

Why have you chosen to leave a gift to MAF in your Will?

MAF's holistic approach in bringing medical care, education and the Gospel to isolated areas resonates with me deeply. I've supported MAF for many years, and I like to think that part of my gift might go towards a piece of a plane; a little bit of me flying around, helping people.

How did it feel to turn 80 alongside MAF this year?

It's wonderful! 1945 was a remarkable year — the war ended, MAF began, and some amazing people were born. I'm thrilled to be able to share this milestone with MAF and to be part of its ongoing story.



Chris Mathison

A life of service

How did your faith journey begin?

I was born in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and grew up in a strong Christian family. My personal faith began when I was ten, after an evening service where my uncle was preaching.

When did mission become important to you?

After my father passed away when I was nine, my mother and I moved to Northern Ireland. Our church had a strong mission focus. I was inspired by the missionaries I met and the stories they told. This sparked my passion for global mission.

How did you become involved with MAF?

I trained as a GP, and mission trips with my church in 2007 and 2008 took my work beyond my practice, providing medical care and helping with church projects.

After retiring in 2008 — having supported MAF for many years — I became an MAF speaker, and have loved sharing its impact ever since. Visiting Uganda in 2010, I saw firsthand how MAF planes make a real difference to the lives of those living in isolated communities.

Why did you leave a gift to MAF in your Will?

I've always admired the way MAF makes God's work possible, and I feel truly part of the MAF family. My hope is that my gift will help future communities experience God's love in real and practical ways.

How does it feel to share an 80th milestone with MAF?

Realising I was born in the same year MAF was founded — 1945 — feels like a unique bond. It's strange to think that, when I was just entering this world, the founders were starting to think about setting up MAF!

Through these heartfelt legacies, people like Sue and Chris are ensuring that their dedication to helping isolated communities will continue for generations to come.

Through their generosity, lives will be changed and God's love will be made known — a lasting reflection of their faith and service.

Let your legacy take flight



At MAF, we know how powerful a legacy can be. Every flight we make is a reminder that your generosity today can change lives tomorrow.

Writing a Will is one of the most important things you can do for your loved ones, but it can also be a way to bring life-saving help to those who need it most.



MAF has partnered with the National Free Wills Network to make it easy for you to write or update a simple Will for **FREE** with a trusted local solicitor, either in person or by a remote appointment. If you prefer, you're also welcome to find your own solicitor through the Law Society's website.

Including a gift to MAF in your Will is entirely optional — but it can help bring emergency medical care, food, supplies and Christ's love to communities in need for generations to come.

Will your legacy take flight, transforming lives and spreading light where it's needed most?

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

To find out more about the National Free Wills Network or request a copy of our free Will guide, please visit **www.maf-uk.org/legacy** phone us on **01303 852819** or **scan the QR code**.



Change is in the air!

Big news from Uganda: MAF's new floatplane has arrived — ready to serve the isolated communities of Lake Victoria!

For years, many of its island communities lived in isolation. Having little or no access to healthcare, education or the Gospel has been the norm. But, change is in the air!

Lake Victoria — Africa's largest lake — spans Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. 'It feels like a small ocean,' says Ruth Jack, MAF's Director of Africa Programmes. Scattered across its waters are more than 200 islands, home to some of Uganda's most isolated communities.

'There are no hospitals on any of the islands,' explains Samuel Wasswa, a Buyovu Island resident for 15 years. *'The only way to reach the mainland is by canoe — and these often overturn when the winds become rough. So many accidents happen on the lake, even involving pregnant women.'*

Every year, around 5,000 people lose their lives on Lake Victoria. Dangerous travel has left islanders cut off from healthcare and education, contributing to high rates of HIV/AIDS, illiteracy and early pregnancies. Even NGOs like Compassion and World Vision have struggled to expand their work because of the risks.



'GOD IS A GOD OF IMPOSSIBILITIES'

MAF experts recently scouted safe docking sites on islands like Lwanabatya and Buyovu. Samuel is hopeful: *'The plane will bring doctors and teachers — people we've needed for so long.'*

This amphibious aircraft will cut travel time from 8 hours by boat to just 20 minutes by air, ensuring faster, safer access to hospitals, schools and the Gospel for some of the world's most remote communities.

Sam Baguma, Interim Country Director for MAF in Uganda, expresses heartfelt gratitude for the aircraft's arrival and its mission ahead:

'There are more than 200 islands, and my dream is that every single one will be reached. God is a God of impossibilities. What is not possible with man is possible with God.'

**'WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT WITH GOD ALL
THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.'**

— MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV)



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