



Baguma Family News...

We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10

Merry Christmas! What a year! We hope and pray that through this year you have been able to keep healthy and cope with all that has come your way. Through the highs, the lows and the

strangeness of the year, we know we can trust in a God who is faithful and loves us.

This Christmas we have so much to be thankful for! Just 5 days before this photo of Rachel (on the right) was taken, she fell out of a tree in our garden and was knocked unconscious. The way she landed could have been life changing if it wasn't for our guard, who just happened to be in sight of the tree and ran to her. Without hesitating he moved her head to free her wind pipe. When Abby ran out, to the sounds of Becca's screams, Rachel wasn't breathing. But as Abby shook her, she rasped a breath. Minutes later Sam drove through the gate coming home from work. The next hour of battling through Kampala traffic with her hardly conscious and then vomiting was one of our worst hours. We prayed, we cried, we talked at her non-stop to desperately keep her awake once she had come around. Through all of this God had his angels looking out for her. Amazingly she doesn't seem to have any long-lasting injuries and although the concussion has been tough to work through, she is back to health. She was desperate to make it for her Christmas chapel at school and this photo has become a special reminder of God's love for us and especially for her. Her words in the chapel were...



Luke 2:13-14 – Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests".

This Christmas time, we pray that we will all know and experience the love, peace and hope that Christ brings to each one of us in our individual circumstances.

Flying for life

As with all sectors, this health crisis has affected MAF in very many different ways depending on the restrictions imposed in each country. In Uganda, after 6 months of not being able to fly, apart from a few emergency flights, we were finally able to resume operations in October. Since then we have seen a gradual increase in demand for our services, especially supporting the north of Uganda, but this is still limited due to restrictions in international travel.



With regards to the other programmes in the region, South Sudan and Tanzania have both been able to continue flying throughout the pandemic and it has been a privilege to be able to continue working with the local partners in those countries. In South Sudan, we were able to be a support to the Ministry of Health, flying test kits and personnel to various remote locations. Sam has been able to continue working remotely with these programmes, especially with a complicated tax case in South Sudan and the re-validation and re-registration of the Tanzania programme.

Serving with MAF

Uganda – Jul 2012 - Jul 2014

Chad - Jul 2014 - Dec 2018

East Africa – Jan 2019 onward



As a family, we joined MAF in 2012 when Sam took on the role of Finance Manager and later became the acting Country Director for MAF in Uganda.

We then moved to Chad in July 2014 for Sam to take up the role of Country Director for MAF's operations in Chad. After 4.5 years serving in Chad we moved back to Uganda in 2019 for Sam to take up a regional role serving MAF programmes across the East of Africa.

We are very excited about the opportunity we have to be witnessing and serving through the work of MAF. If you would like to support us in this work, through giving or praying or preferably both, we would be very grateful and would love to hear from you.

Throughout this year Sam has also been part of the immediate response team in the Uganda programme, monitoring and guiding responses to the uncertainties of this health crisis and how it effects operations. This team has also had to recently switch focus to look at the upcoming elections as we have already seen considerable unrest in the run up. Sam has now also taken on the role of security manager for the programme. This will be quite an involved role over the next month or so with the elections so please do pray for wisdom in decisions made by the team.

Family

We are all involved, at three different levels, with a lovely Christian international school in Kampala, whose vision is to *educate and inspire servant leaders for Christ*. Acacia International School is a joyful expression of learning in a loving Christian environment and serves children from many different nationalities. Sam serves on the board of directors for the school, while Abby works there and Rachel is in grade 3 and Rebecca is in Grade 1. In August, we began the new school year online again not really knowing for how long, but just grateful that the girls were able to continue their education when so many children were home indefinitely. At this point Abby also had a change of career and jumped headfirst into a co-teaching position at the school, fulfilling and answering a prayer/ dream she has had for the past few years. Teaching Grade 3 (UK Year 4) has been quite a learning experience and starting with online teaching certainly had its extra challenges. At the same time Abby also launched into an online International PGCE (post grad certificate in education) and so the end of this year has been a little hectic to say the least!

In October, the Government finally decided to allow some children back to school but with very strict guidelines. Three exam year groups from national schools were allowed to return and then also some smaller private and international schools. After a tense few weeks of trying to comply with a rather long list of requirements and Ministry visits, our school was finally approved to re-open. In some ways, this was a huge relief but in others a new normal was emerging. For Abby, having the girls in school while she was also in school full time was great, but now trying to balance in school teaching, with some children still online, and coping with children seated individually all 2 metres apart wearing masks made the school day long and tiring. Once routines settled, it became a real joy seeing our girls learning in school again and having fun socialising with their friends.

Right now, most Ugandan children are still not in school with little or no access to any education since March, and so we continue to pray that once the elections are over in January, more children can return to school. The effects of such a long time out of school has been very detrimental to many already vulnerable children.

Please pray with us:

1. Uganda's covid-19 cases are increasing a lot more rapidly and hospitals are now filling up. Many people are very complacent about maintaining the health measures to keep safe which is putting many at risk. Please do pray for God's intervention and provision for those who are sick, and his protection over all of us.
2. Many Ugandans are still suffering the effects of the severe lockdown we experienced earlier in the year. Even with the easing of restrictions, many people are still without regular income and are finding life extremely challenging.
3. Praise God for the flying we are continuing to do and please pray that we can meet the needs of our local partners in each of the East African countries where we are serving. Please continue to pray for wisdom for Sam as he continues to navigate complex issues with different governments.
4. Please pray for the upcoming election on January 14th 2021 and for peace to prevail.
5. Praise God with us that Rachel has healed well from her fall. She does still get very tired easily so please pray that she regains full strength.

*Thank you for your continued support to us,
Love and Blessings
Sam, Abby, Rachel & Becca*



Recent Birthday celebrations for both girls



Handwashing routines as we enter school