



AN UPDATE FROM

Chris & Karyn Ball

Serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in South Sudan
August 2024

My Last Flights with MAF

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of change, opportunity and special flights. Recently, the family and I flew back from Nairobi, Kenya. We were the only passengers on the flight (plus some freight). It was special to be flying together as a family.

In July, I had the privilege to fly nine parents and infants from South Sudan to CURE Hospital in Tororo, Uganda. These children were battling hydrocephalus or spina bifida and were needing specialized surgeries. CURE Hospital identified these children and took care of all the costs to get them the help they needed. On my return trip, I flew two mothers and their children. The mothers' smiles said it all. The life-giving surgeries gave them hope for their family and children, and they showed such gratitude for the care they received from CURE.

On a rainy Monday morning, my daughter Katelyn accompanied me as a co-pilot to pick up our Peace and Reconciliation workshop team from Maridi, South Sudan. They had finished a five-day workshop with over 180 participants. The group saw hearts changed, forgiveness asked for and received, and a renewed relationship with their Saviour. I enjoyed the day with Kate. She was excited to hand out cookies as the in-flight snack that her siblings made the night before.

And just a few days ago, I had my last flight with MAF. It was bittersweet. I flew NGO workers and AIM teammates out of a remote location. On my arrival back in Juba, I was greeted and honoured with a water canon salute from the UN Fire Brigade that was set up by MAF team on the ground. What an honour it has been to serve with MAF.

In between my flight days, I was busy finishing up my administrative duties and handing over to a colleague who was newly appointed to the chief pilot role.

In our last letter, we wrote that we would be finishing up our time with MAF later this year. We found out God had different plans shortly after sending out that newsletter. After announcing our leave date, I was presented with a job opportunity working with a medevac company that had a start date in December this year. This created a dilemma for us as our plans were not lining up with what God was saying. Karyn and I sought God's leading, spoke with Godly men and women, and worked with MAF Canada to make the hard decision to leave the field earlier than planned. We will depart on August 25th. This earlier departure will allow us the time to spend with you, our supporters, visiting individually and sharing in churches. This change will also enable our kids to start the school year in Canada, our family to join a debriefing/repatriation retreat, and time to settle back in Canada.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the faithful prayer and financial support you have all given as we have served over the last decade with MAF. We leave with hearts full and humbled by what God is doing in South Sudan.

Chris



Enjoying a MAF flight together



Family Update

One of my favourite quotes is from A.A. Milne, author of Winnie the Pooh. *"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."* This rings true in our lives. We love life and ministry in South Sudan so much, and that makes saying farewell truly painful. Over the last ten years we have dug deep roots, and now we are feeling the effects of pulling out our roots and being transplanted across the world. At times, I've wanted to cling all too tightly to the dirt here in South Sudan. But we feel our Master Gardener intimately; He is holding us close, His hand is gathering up our painfully exposed roots. Our kids are experiencing the pangs of transition as well. Will feels like he is being *"uprooted"* and *"retiring as a missionary kid"*. Addy says she feels *"excited and sad at the same time because I am leaving my real home"*. Kate drew three faces in her journal, a happy face + sad face = nervous face. She says she *"feels sad to leave Africa"*. Our kids are in many ways really and truly *"Junubians"*, born and raised in South Sudan (ok, not actually born, but have lived here from infancy on). This is really their home. As a family, we will miss mangos, mandazi (African donuts), the swimming pool, our porch, the boys at Children of the Light, and our dear house help Aunty Susan, who has become family to us. Please pray for Susan; pray that she will find great employment after we leave. Looking forward, we are thrilled to know our kids have been accepted at Cambridge Christian School. This is the school they attended during our last two visits to Canada. I am excited to be able to continue my role as a Member Care Provider with MAF Canada. We are trusting in the Lord to continue to walk alongside us.

Karyn



Financial Support:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful support of our ministry with MAF. MANY of you have consistently donated EVERY single month for over a DECADE! That equals THOUSANDS of monthly gifts over the years to make our ministry with MAF possible. We are humbled and grateful. We will continue to be supported MAF missionaries until the end of our home assignment, **November 30, 2024**. Karyn will continue to work with MAF Canada, but will transition to receiving a salary through the home office. What does this mean for you, our financial supporters? Your support will automatically stop at the end of November. If you would like to continue to support the work of MAF, you are welcome to partner with the MAF Flight Crew program. Thanks again for your faithful generosity!

Photos: A representation of God holding us, Will and a monkey, Addy and Kate learning how to make their favourite African dishes with Aunty Susan (beef & beans!), and saying farewell to our boys at Children of the Light.

Home Assignment:

We look forward to connecting with friends, supporters and churches from September through November. If you would like to get together, please do reach out. So far we are scheduled to visit the following churches to share a word of thanks. To book a time to meet with us, do email us!

Sept 29...Hastings Park Bible Church, Belleville

Oct 4.....Seniors @ First Baptist, Barrie

Oct 6.....Richmond Hill Baptist Church, Richmond Hill

Oct 20.....Fellowship Baptist Church, Cobourg

Nov 3.....First Baptist Church, Timmins

Praise & Prayer

- Praise God for ten years of ministry in South Sudan.
- Praise God for safety in the air and on the ground.
- Praise God for his faithfulness and guidance every step of the way.
- Pray for our us as we say goodbyes and hellos during this season of transition.
- Pray for our house help Susan; that the Lord would provide for her in our absence.
- Pray for peace, development, and Christ to reign in South Sudan.



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August 2024

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of **your partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*
Philippians 1:3-6

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by saying thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Chris and Karyn Ball. It is only through the generous gifts of people like you that, together, we can meet the needs of isolated communities around the world.

Chris and Karyn joined MAF in 2013, and since that time, they have been demonstrating God's love to those they serve. Whether delivering medical supplies, transporting missionaries, working alongside national staff, or teaching and mentoring students, they were doing it all for His glory! There is no way to know how many lives have been impacted by the Gospel because Chris and Karyn obeyed God's call on their lives. Still, we know that each take-off and landing brought help, hope, and healing into remote communities through your partnership.

The Balls have shared their future plans in the enclosed letter. We are delighted that Karyn will remain a Member Care Provider with MAF. Her decade of experience in South Sudan gives her a unique understanding of the challenges missionaries face while serving on the field.

As their official term with MAF Canada ends on November 30, 2024, we want to express our deep gratitude for your faithful support of their ministry. While their specific mission will conclude, your generosity can continue to make a difference. We invite you to consider transferring your support to become a Flight Crew donor.

As a Flight Crew donor, you will contribute to sustaining MAF's life-changing work, ensuring that we can continue bringing help, hope, and healing to isolated communities around the world, reaching those in need with essential services, supplies, and the message of hope.

If you would like to make this transition, contact MAF Canada Donor Services at 1.877.351.9344 or email donorsupport@maf.ca and we'll take care of the rest.

Please note that if we do not hear from you by the end of November, your pre-authorized payments will automatically be stopped, and no further donations will be processed after that.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the part you have played in Chris and Karyn's ministry. Please join us in praying God's very best for them as they settle back into life in Canada. We look forward to watching God write this next chapter in their journey of life and faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brad Bell'.

Brad Bell
President and CEO, Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada