

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” —1 John 3:18

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters,

Early in the morning, we leave the compound of Mission Aviation Fellowship for the airport of Conakry, the capital of Guinea. It's still dark when the call to prayer resounds from the city's many mosques. We try to get to the airport on time because, in our experience, it quickly becomes a hive of activity with tricycles, cars, and motorcycles. Everything drives along as if there are no rules, yet at the same time, it flows effortlessly. It looks dangerous, and perhaps it is. We drive past large new buildings and a tangle of small huts and shacks.

Trash is laying everywhere along the roadside. As we turn onto Transversal 1 in the MAF Landcruiser, we see the towering piles of rubbish from the landfill in the distance. It's burning day and night filling the air with thick clouds of smoke. Fortunately, the wind is blowing offshore today. Although the smog combined with the Harmattan still significantly obscures the views. Now that it's the dry season, the Harmattan brings dust particles from the Sahara, and the air is often haizy. At the airport, we prepare for a flight to Kissidougou and Beyla, in the southeast of the country. After checking in passengers and preparing the plane, we stand at the landing pad, ready for departure.

From the air, you can see the vastness of the Kaloum Peninsula, on which Conakry lies. It extends almost 40 km into the Atlantic Ocean. The port and many government agencies are located at its very tip.

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The city is surrounded by mangroves and winding river arms. From the air, the contrast is striking: how nature continues to grow undisturbed while the city does the same. Each in its own way. The peninsula is completely built up along its entire length. There are even plans to drain and develop part of the mangroves northeast of the city.

Along the way, we pass a few small or larger villages with huts and houses. From above, it seems like a simple life. Not wealthy in a material sense, but rich in community. Everything is connected by dirt roads, some wide enough for a 4x4 and others only for a motorcycle. What a contrast with the new railway. It winds through the landscape connecting the hinterland, rich in raw materials like bauxite and iron ore.

A journey of 2 days

Arriving in Kissidougou, we say goodbye to Cornelia. She regularly comes over from Switzerland to help at the local medical clinic. Before MAF arrived, the journey from Conakry to Kissidougou took her two days. In the rainy season, you wouldn't even try. Now we've arrived after about a two-hour flight. Besides Cornelia, a number of Guineans also flew along, mostly patients. The following week, we'll bring three Americans to Beyla. This isn't their first visit either; they'll be helping at a hospital near Nzérékoré, located in the far southeastern corner of Guinea. It's wonderful to see the flight service working.



On the way back, we have good conversations about the actual impact. There are, of course, still so many people you can't reach. We ask ourselves if what we're doing is the best way to help... These are questions we'll never fully answer. What we can do is dedicate this mission to the Eternal One and ask for continual inspiration to do what is life giving.

Praise and Prayer points

- A successful two-week visit to Guinea, which has confirmed my commitment to this work and the mission in this country.
- The intended move to Guinea at the end of April and start of the mission there. That I may trust God's guidance in the process.
- Planned departure March 7th to Chang Mai, Thailand, for MAF Orientation training. That it may be a formative time and lead to wonderful connections.



FLTR. Maomy, Renate, Christine, Erik, Margot, Lisa, John, Ueli and Joel.

Team MAF Guinea

MAF in Guinea was established at the end of 2021, and has a small team. It's operating one C208 Grand Caravan with a capacity of nine passengers. The office is on the compound of Lisa and John Blomberg and their five children.

Lisa runs the MAF Guinea program as country director. John is currently the only pilot. Ueli is the current operations manager. Sadly, he and his wife Renate will be leaving later this year, and the plan is that I will take over his role as operations manager. The local staff consists of Maomy, who manages the finances, Christine, who coordinates bookings, Margot, who handles the administration, and Joel, who handles communications and ground operations. The ambition, hope, and prayer is that the team will grow to reach more people.

The next steps

An important next step is the Orientation training in Chang Mai, Thailand. The program consists of a broad orientation on MAF, its mission, working in a different culture, and attention to personal well-being.

My time in Guinea has confirmed my intent to move in that direction. The end of April 2026 now seems a realistic timeframe. We will continue step by step, and the final timing will depend on receiving the green light.

