

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

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters,

At the beginning of last year, I returned from Sierra Leone. By then, I had already formed the idea to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), the world's largest humanitarian aviation organization. It felt like the next step, where both my career in the aircraft industry and the mission work of Mercy Ships came together. A next step to give substance to a desire to contribute positively to the world. To play my part in God's Kingdom. A Kingdom of love that, in a sense, is only limited by the way we perceive it. This Kingdom is central to the good news that Jesus brought us and forms the inspiration for my choices over the past year.

A year that revolved around the selection process of MAF. I attended a Bible school during the summer, formed a seven-person home support team (TFT), and completed the course “accountable manager in aviation.” By now, I have also visited Guinea, the country where I will be serving. In recent weeks, I completed the final steps by finishing the “MAF orientation training” and the “hostile awareness environment training.” Now the moment has come: I have received a conditional green light from MAF for my mission. Very concretely, this means that my plane ticket has been booked to move to Guinea on April 28, 2026.

One of the ways in which MAF distinguishes itself is that the entire organization is supported by donations. The international staff, like myself, raise funds together with the TFT in order to financially cover the mission. A great deal of attention has therefore gone into this. It is a vulnerable and dependent position, yet at the same time also a position full of blessing.

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It is a wonder to see how much help I have received. In this way, God's provision becomes very tangible. It is wonderful to receive help from so many (un)expected directions—both one-time and recurring donations. Together with the TFT, campaigns have been set up, but also spontaneous initiatives have been organized in the Netherlands and abroad.

We have been able to speak at various gatherings, during services, with entrepreneurs, and with the diaconates of numerous churches. In this way, all this activity leads to much connection between people. This mission does not only take place in West Africa, but just as much here.

In Guinea, I will start working as an Operations Manager and will support the flight operations. I will do this, for example, by planning the flights and maintaining the necessary permits to operate MAF aircraft in Guinea. I will also lead a small team of local staff. In the past, I have noticed that this gives me a lot of energy. It is also important to build good relationships with all clients. These are often NGOs working in remote inland areas. Finally, it is important to maintain contact with the aviation authority, the airports, and the Ministry of Transport—crucial parties for an airline.

The ambition, hope, and prayer for the program in Guinea is to expand in three areas. Expansion of the team, so that the aircraft can be deployed more frequently each week. Expansion of the network, so that MAF can fly to the right destinations. Finally, expansion of the customer base, so that more aid organizations find their way to MAF. All of this with the aim of increasing local medical care, aid, and development for people in remote areas. In this way, MAF gives practical expression to Jesus' call to love one's neighbor. I am curious to see what my contribution will look like in practice.

As the departure date draws closer, I increasingly realize that this is not a journey I am making alone. I am grateful for everyone who is involved in any way—through prayer, support, practical help, and/or financial contribution. A heartfelt Thank You!

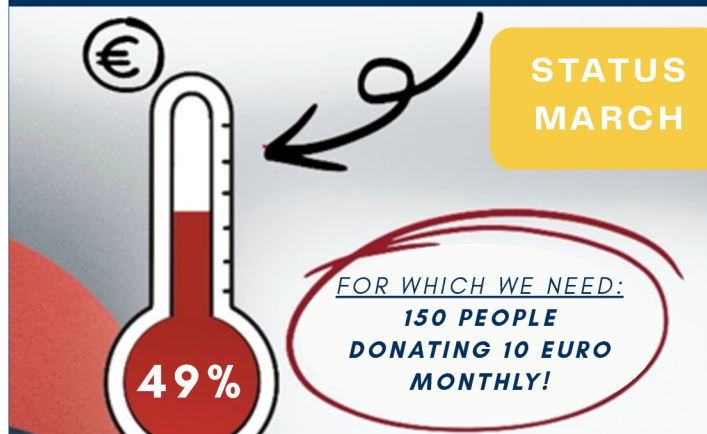
Praise and Prayer points

- Prayer for a smooth transition, wisdom in everything that comes my way, and that I may be a blessing in the place where I am going.
- Grateful that I was able to follow in March the MAF Orientation Training in Thailand. Short but powerful: an inspiring time with MAF colleagues.
- Grateful that I have received the green light from MAF to depart for Guinea.

Conditional green light

As I wrote earlier, I have received a conditional green light from MAF. For this, a well-functioning home support team (TFT) and sufficient recurring donations are required to ensure the continuity of the mission. I am very grateful for the TFT, which consists of a committed and active group of people.

Fundraising is also going well. Since the beginning of this year, significant progress has been made in commitments for recurring donations. The recurring contributions still need to increase further. The TFT and I feel a strong sense of confidence that, through the actions and support, we will meet this requirement. The thermometer below shows the growing status since the beginning of this year.



The next steps

In preparation to my departure, there will be a farewell church service on Sunday, April 19. A meaningful moment to thank God and to pause in prayer for the time ahead.

The countdown has begun; on Tuesday, April 28 d.v., I will depart for Guinea. First to Brussels, and then a direct flight to Conakry. The coming period will be marked by saying goodbyes and packing.

I look forward to taking you along from Guinea in what is happening there, in the stories of people, and in what this mission may come to mean for them.