

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

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters,

On July 10, I boarded 'our' Cessna Grand Caravan with a small MAF team, bound for Monrovia, Liberia, for the annual maintenance there.

We took off from a dark grey, cloudy Conakry. Once in the air, we saw the mangroves and the meandering river arms surrounding the peninsula on which Conakry is situated—a beautiful sight. To the east of us were the high plateaus, with cliffs rising 600 meters high. Everything looked green; the rainy season had brought the entire country into bloom.

From the plane, the perspective changed: from the intensity of the city we had just driven through ourselves to the tranquility of a vast vista. It was the same feeling as standing on a mountain and seeing the horizon far away. Less judgment, but more compassion and fascination for all that life in that metropolis.

Above Sierra Leone, we flew through some light rain showers and experienced slight turbulence. Closer to Liberia, we saw the stunning coastline silhouetted against the horizon. We flew over the vast expanse of Monrovia. The city was founded on a peninsula, but had since expanded far beyond it.

We landed safely at Roberts International Airport and quickly proceeded to the parking area. After some official paperwork concerning the aircraft, we took off again within 30 minutes. We flew back over Monrovia at a low altitude. Below us, we saw swamps, rivers, and bodies of water that defined the city's layout. The built-up area intensified, and then we saw the enormous red-light-district street market: busy roads, houses of stone and corrugated iron, and a block network of roads and streets that looked so American.

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The MAF Liberia hangar where the maintenance was done

One more left turn, and we were on final approach for landing at Spriggs Payne Airport. From this airport, MAF flies to all destinations in Liberia.

As we landed, I saw the enormous MAF hangar, which could accommodate three aircraft. The MAF team in Liberia gave us a warm welcome. It felt almost like coming home, even though I had never been there before. We received our visas and passport stamps, and could finally admire that beautiful hangar up close.

MAF Liberia started in 2015 and is the older brother of MAF Guinea. Here, MAF has all the tools needed to inspect our aircraft and get it ready for the coming period. There is a lot of cooperation because both programs fly under the same Air Operator Certificate.

Three weeks in Liberia flew by, but what a blessing they were. Grateful to meet the team and to be part of the same mission. To pray, sing, and work together. To be immersed in another MAF program. That inspires to dream big for MAF Guinea. To strive for a lasting, valuable impact in Guinea. To support more people and organizations with safe and fast transport. To have the highest ambitions to reach people with aid. And not to do this for ourselves, but to do it based on universal values that Jesus teaches us: love for our fellow man.

So, with a renewed vision, we dedicate MAF Guinea to God and ask Him to open the doors that we may enter. Just as Jesus says in Matthew 7:7-8: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and whoever seeks finds, and to whoever knocks the door will be opened."

From the Home Support Team

We are extremely grateful for all the financial support Erik receives. Initiatives to support him and his work are being launched not only by us but also by others. This is very welcome, as this support is desperately needed to ensure the continued existence of the work in Guinea. This is all the more so because global price increases have not bypassed Guinea either. The TFT therefore remains committed to securing sufficient (structural) support for Erik's work.

You can contact the home front team via email: tfterikbeerlagemaf@gmail.com



Medical Evacuations

I have experienced a number of medical evacuations recently: a man in a coma who urgently needed to be taken to the hospital, and two boys, one with a severe form of malaria and the other with a leg infection who required surgery. When necessary, a stretcher can be installed in the cabin. This allows us to provide essential assistance when urgent transport is required. For me personally, I was happy to see the important role MAF can play in these circumstances.



Pascal is carried into the plane.

Praise and Prayer points

- Grateful for the experiences in Liberia. Grateful that our plane is now back in Guinea. Grateful that the operation has successfully resumed. Grateful that the team is complete again in Guinea. Grateful that in October we will expand the team with a team member and family from the Netherlands, and a pilot in 2027.
- Prayer for the transition I am still in. To find my way and develop myself in a new country, on my own. May my network grow and may I form new friendships.
- Prayer for MAF Guinea, that we may help those people and organizations that are in great need. That we may have an impact in Guinea to help it develop. That with all our work we may contribute to God's Kingdom here on earth.



This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about Erik's journey and experiences. The newsletter is distributed by the Home Support Team in cooperation with MAF Netherlands. If you would like to subscribe to receive the newsletter or support Erik as a donor, you can sign up via the website www.maf.nl/beerlage. Changes (address, email, donation amount, etc.) can be submitted to adresemaf.nl or to MAF Netherlands, P.O. Box 7, 7390 AA Twello. Please mention that it concerns Erik.