



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

LifeLink

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Return to Mukwando: isolated mountain people

Pilot/engineer Craig Enwright and his family joined Dr. Stephen Collins on a return trip to the Mukwando people of southwestern Angola. A 45-minute MAF flight from Lubango saves missionaries and health care workers 18 hours of more difficult travel — 10 hours by road, plus an eight-hour climb up the mountain.

By Lisa Enwright, MAF Canada missionary

LUBANGO, Angola – Around the rim of a crater formation in Angola’s Serra da Neve mountains are 680 Mukwando people who live in several small villages.

Five years ago, after the Mukwando built an airstrip, Canadian MAF pilots made the first landing in the crater with the Cessna Caravan C-GWOH “Wings of Hope.”

Two Angolan missionary families, placed by the Brazilian branch of Youth with a Mission and the Sinodal Evangelical Church of Angola, have started a church that now has about 75 people in attendance.

We loaded C-GWOH on January 23 and left Lubango for the 45-minute flight to the community where we would spend the next two days.

Many Mukwando met us as the plane arrived. They were friendly and eagerly shook our hands. Lifting our heavy gear onto their backs or heads, they would not allow us to carry anything as we trekked more than two kilometres to their village.

Chickens, goats and pigs roamed freely through the village as we approached.

Our daughters, Lauren, Shannon and Amanda, amused the villagers by chasing the pigs and chickens around. These were the first white children the Mukwando had ever seen.

While Dr. Stephen Collins prepared his medical clinic, we set up our tents. Dr. Collins would preach to the people the first night and Craig the next. Rui Dos Santos, MAF’s Lubango office administrator, was with us as part of our ministry team.

NEEDED NOW: Aircraft Maintenance Engineers!



We’re looking for more aircraft maintenance engineers to serve at MAF flight bases overseas. If you are a qualified AME and sure of God’s calling on your life, please give us a call, toll-free at 1-877-351-9344.

In photo above, Hugh Beck of London, Ontario, retired in 1999 after 38 years with MAF, but still travels to MAF bases all over the world to lend a hand with aircraft maintenance. His wife Norma also helps out. See story inside.



On the mountain... Lisa Enwright and her daughters visit Mukwando homes.

Canadian MAF missionaries provide aviation, communications and logistical services to support Christian outreach in Angola, Botswana, Brazil, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Worldwide, 450 MAF families and 180 aircraft assist more than 30 nations.



Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada
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MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada works with other MAF groups around the world to serve isolated communities in 30 nations. We currently have opportunities available for:

- Pilots (with Commercial IFR Licence)
- Pilot/Engineers
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineers
- Avionics Technicians
- Radio/Computer Technicians
- Base/Operations Managers

*One year of Bible college or equivalent required.

Our most urgent need at this time is for aircraft maintenance engineers. In some nations, MAF is also seeking support staff: teachers, logistics managers, pastoral counsellors, office managers and accountants. For example, school teachers are needed for Angola, Latin America, Indonesia and Eurasia.

Please contact:

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Or call toll-free: 1-877-351-9344

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MAF Canada is a registered Canadian charity able to issue receipts for income tax purposes. Registration Number 129942561 RR0001

We exist to demonstrate God's love through aviation, communications, and logistics to meet spiritual and physical needs.

Our vision is that all people have access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the resources to meet their needs.

MAF Canada is a charter subscriber to the Canadian Council of Christian Charities' seal of financial accountability.



Return to Mukwando:

Continued from front page

Craig had been asked to set up an HF radio for this community. Every tool he produced from his toolbox brought sounds of amazement.

What a rare experience to be among such people! I reminded myself that the Mukwando had never heard of such things as electricity. Until a few years ago, they had never seen language printed in a book.

Craig used two long tree poles to climb onto the thatched roof of the pastor's hut to secure the solar panel for the HF radio.

An answer to prayer

After about three hours, the HF radio was connected. Craig and Rui made contact with the MAF office in Lubango. We were told this successful connection was an answer to four years of prayer.

Later, with Rui, we walked down to the mud hut that was serving as a clinic.

People had walked as far as 50 kilometres to see the doctor. In a day and a half, Dr. Collins was able to treat 135 patients.

We were invited to the pastor's home for a meal. As evening sunlight shone through the doorway and one small window, and food was served from pots on the dirt floor, we enjoyed a time of fellowship with these dedicated believers.

Three candles lit the church that night as Craig preached a simple message of salvation, which was translated first into Umbundo and then Mukwando.

An elderly gentleman stood up and said he felt so moved to have our group there that he would carry much joy with him for the rest of his life. His people would always remember what Jesus Christ had done for them.

Joy and wonder

Words could not express his joy and wonder, he continued, that people from a country he could never visit, had come to share the Gospel and to help the Mukwando.

After the service, moonlight lit the way as our family walked back to our tent.

That night, with the background sounds of the joyous Mukwando still singing to the Lord, our youngest daughter Amanda, aged five, asked Jesus into her heart. What an amazing time and place for her.

We praise the Lord for her salvation, and hope she will always remember this time we had among the Mukwando.

Our girls all know the Lord now and it gives us great joy as parents.

By 6 a.m. the next day, we were headed



Fellowship... The Mukwando learn a new song from Dr. Stephen Collins. Two days later, Dr. Collins distributes the ministry group's remaining fresh water before boarding the return flight to Lubango.



isolated mountain people

back to the plane. When we shared our news of Amanda's salvation with the pastor and his wife, they promptly informed the crowd.

In a moment we will not forget, a senior Mukwando lady rushed forward, scooped Amanda up and, with great joy, gave her hugs and kisses! This woman is known as Mama Caroleena, and her husband was the first believer in this community.

Selected to become the next great witch doctor for her people, she was to have received her powers and authority upon the death of the existing witch doctor, also a woman.

Instead, at the witch doctor's funeral, Mama Caroleena boldly risked her life by publicly denouncing witchcraft and telling the people she would follow Jesus Christ. What a testimony to the power of our mighty God!

This experience and these people will forever be etched in our hearts and minds.

As we left, we received gifts of beans and wild honey.

Craig has since returned to Mukwando with a team specializing in leprosy. Seven cases were identified and are now being treated.

Craig Enwright is from Glencoe (near London), Ontario, and Lisa is from Windsor, Ontario. They began ministry in

Angola in 1997, and completed their MAF service on Aug. 1, 2002. Their daughters are now 10, eight and six years old.

Dr. Stephen Collins grew up in Angola as the son of Canadian missionaries. He is a member of the Evangelical Medical Aid Society of Warkworth, Ontario. EMAS is the international arm of the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada.

Thanks to faithful volunteers!

GUELPH, Ontario – We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our volunteers John and Ruby Irwin for the valuable help they provided in the national office of Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada throughout the past five years.

John and Ruby assisted the Guelph office from May 1997 until May 2002, when they prepared to move to Toronto to be closer to family.

John, who had retired from a long career in the insurance industry, capably handled our missionary staff insurance needs, as well as MAF Canada payables, working full days in the office, three days a week.

Ruby graciously helped as needed with such tasks as compiling our prayer bulletins, folding missionary letters, and stuffing envelopes.

We will remember the Irwins' gentle disposition and caring attitude, as well as the prayers they delivered up to God on behalf of all missionary staff, overseas and at home.

May God pour His blessings upon John and Ruby as they continue to minister to others through the testimony of their lives!



Account survives through generations

The Mukwando people of Angola have retained an amazing verbal record of their origin.

Before the first Brazilian missionaries reached them with the Gospel, their elders had been sharing the basic account of the Tower of Babel, passed down from their ancestors — except that the name of the structure was forgotten over time. Their account goes something like this:

“When God created man, everyone spoke the same language. But then the people built something that displeased God. It caused them to be thrown into confusion and they began to speak many languages. It was at that time that the Mukwando came to be.”

The Mukwando were suffering great hardship from malnutrition, eye ailments and poverty-related diseases at the time they were first discovered by missionaries.

One Mukwando elder had dreamed a dream about strangers carrying a bright light into his village. Later, upon accepting Jesus Christ as his Saviour, he realized this was the Light he had been prepared to receive.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17)

May We Introduce... *Mike & Anna Davis*

Mike Davis grew up in a Christian home in Hartland, New Brunswick, and accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour through the witness of his Sunday School teacher.

After attending Atlantic Baptist College in Moncton, he began flight training with the goal of becoming a missionary pilot. For a time, he served as editor of the *Victoria County Record*, the community newspaper in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick.

He worked for three years as a charter pilot and flight instructor in Canada — in Swan River (Manitoba), Iroquois Falls (Ontario), and Newcastle (New Brunswick) — before becoming a MAF pilot in Papua New Guinea, where he has been in ministry for the past 14 years.

Anna grew up in a small village in the Southern Highlands province of PNG. Her parents served for 30 years with the Papua New Guinean Bible Church.

Anna invited Jesus Christ into her heart when she was a child. After completing training at a business college, she accepted a position in the MAF accounts office in Mount Hagen, PNG.

Mike and Anna were married in 2001, and plan to be in Canada this fall for a vacation and furlough.

While here, the Davises will be speaking at a number of churches in New Brunswick. If you are interested in meeting Mike and Anna, and hearing more about the work of MAF, we can send you a schedule of these services. Please contact us in Guelph, toll free at 1-877-351-9344.

If you are not currently supporting MAF on a regular basis and are considering how you can get involved in this exciting and crucial ministry, please consider supporting Mike and Anna.

Your gifts, combined with those of other Ministry Partners, will be used to provide our missionaries with such needs as housing, children's education and medical care while they serve overseas. Even a monthly gift of \$20 or \$25 can go a long way toward providing for these needs.

To begin your support of Mike and Anna, or any other missionary featured in this or any issue of Life Link, simply indicate your preference on the enclosed response card, and send it to us with your next monthly gift.

Notes...

Medical flight in Papua New Guinea

MOUNT HAGEN, Papua New Guinea — Three days of blood loss had left local farmer Hauna Tamobe exhausted and in serious need of medical help, but in PNG's remote Western Province where he lives, walking to the nearest hospital would take six days — for a healthy man.



Mike and Anna... with Hauna and Yahe

MAF was contacted to come to Dahamo mission station to pick up Hauna and his guardian Yahe. A one-hour flight by Cessna 206 could get them to the hospital in Mount Hagen.

The local pastor met with Canadian pilot Mike Davis when he arrived in Dahamo, and they prayed for the patient and safety of the flight.

In Mount Hagen, Hauna was admitted for treatment of chronic dysentery, malaria, anemia and gastrointestinal disorders. Dr. Jeff Tore prescribed malaria medication, iron tablets and an improved diet.

Hauna is a subsistence farmer who survives by growing taro, yams and sweet potatoes. The occasional wild pig or snake provides the only meat for his family of six children.

When Mike and Anna, then Mike's fiancée, visited Hauna and Yahe at the hospital, they usually found the two men reading their Bedamuni Bible and praying. Over 11 days, Hauna's health steadily improved, and he was able to return to his family via an MAF flight.

Mike Davis has been serving as an MAF pilot in PNG since 1988. He and Anna were married last year. For more about this couple, see our "May We Introduce" column at left.

Bangladesh maintenance check

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Canadian pilot/engineer Keith Ketchum, based in Kenya, recently visited Bangladesh, where the MAF program operating out of the capital uses a DeHavilland Turbo Beaver on amphibious floats that can land almost anywhere, including flooded areas.

The 12 accessible airstrips and 200 water landing sites in Bangladesh include a floating hospital in the Bay of Bengal.

As aviation maintenance co-ordinator for MAF Europe, Keith visits programs in Bangladesh, Mongolia and Africa periodically to check MAF maintenance standards and practices. In June, he was in Ethiopia and Angola.

Keith is from Vancouver, BC, and his wife Rosemary is from the UK. They have three children.

Flights support relief in Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya — Flying out of Nairobi, MAF continues to help relief efforts in nearby Sudan, where an 18-year civil war and targeted bombings by the government have killed millions of people and destroyed roads and bridges.

"MAF support makes it possible for our teams to work in the most isolated and needy areas," says project officer Krista Potts of Medair, providing health care, relief supplies, water wells and sanitation for thousands of people. "We consider it a blessing to have MAF as a partner alongside us."

Christian Aid Mission also works in Sudan, supplying health care, teacher training and food for children. "MAF is our partner, providing us with the service we need to keep two full-time relief teams on the ground," says CMA.

Malaria team in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — MAF flew the Cambodian health minister, as well as representatives of the National Malaria Centre and the European Commission's malaria control program to the community of Mondulkiri, Cambodia, near the border with Vietnam.

Mondulkiri has been the site of a refugee camp for about 400 Vietnamese Christians. After six tense months and talks involving the United Nations, Cambodia and Vietnam, the group was moved to Phnom Penh. It was expected these Vietnamese would be granted refugee status in the United States.

“Retired” but still serving with MAF

LONDON, Ontario – Hugh and Norma Beck of London, Ontario, were in Tanzania through February and March to help out with MAF aircraft maintenance.

It was Hugh's fourth trip back to Africa to lend assistance since he officially retired from MAF service in 1999.

In June, he also traveled to the United Kingdom to dismantle and pack up a Cessna 172 training aircraft for shipment to the mission aviation program at Victoria Bible College in Australia.

And as *Life Link* went to press, he was preparing for a trip to Indonesia this fall to dismantle two Cessna 185s for shipment back to the United States.

Hugh willingly takes on these special projects on a volunteer basis, with MAF covering out-of-pocket travel and living expenses.

“Thus far, retirement has not meant cutting our ties with MAF, and as long as there is a need and we are physically able to help, we hope to be able to continue in this role for a bit,” says Hugh, who served

as an MAF aircraft maintenance engineer in Africa for 38 years before his retirement.

While in Dodoma, Tanzania, this year, Hugh covered routine maintenance and inspections for engineers who were busy preparing for exams to upgrade their Tanzanian licences in advance of the arrival of the program's first Cessna Caravan.

He also rebuilt the horizontal stabilizer of an aircraft going through a Check 3, a project that included making up new ribs and fitting new aluminum sheet skins.

Hundreds of small holes had to be drilled into the new skin for the rivets that hold the structure together, and Norma was able to help on this job by de-burring these holes, removing the slight roughness around the edge of each hole.

In the Becks' long career with MAF, Norma was always happy to lend a hand with maintenance jobs when she could. Their three children were raised in Africa



as the Becks moved from Sudan, to Ethiopia and then Kenya.

Hugh notes that during this year's trip to Tanzania it was good to meet up again with Tartisio Valentino, whom he first got to know many years ago in his home country of Sudan. Tartisio is now an engineer with MAF.

We are thankful for the skills and servant attitude of Hugh and Norma Beck who have been so willing to help out at a time when MAF faces a severe shortage of aircraft maintenance engineers.

The gift of time

Recently I learned that one of every four Canadian adults serves as a volunteer every year. I also learned that on average, volunteers give 162 hours of their time annually.

My interest in this subject has grown considerably as a result of the faithful example we've seen in our MAF volunteers, John and Ruby Irwin, and Hugh and Norma Beck.

John and Ruby Irwin visited us about five years ago, and asked if they could help us as volunteers in the Guelph office. John soon began devoting three days of every week to assigned duties in our finance department. Over the next five years, his commitment and dedication to MAF equaled that of any paid member of our staff, though he would not receive compensation for a job well done.

Ruby came in whenever we needed extra help, but was also involved in other community work. Whether she was helping six-year-olds at the neighbourhood public school learn to read, or assisting the office staff at the regional heart and stroke foundation, she was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

In May, the Irwins "retired" from MAF to move closer to their family, but we continue to feel blessed that we had an opportunity to become friends with them while we worked together.

Hugh and Norma Beck, as described in the article above, are also wonderful examples of Christian servanthood as they give time from their retirement years to help MAF. Wherever they go, they are appreciated — not only for the work they accomplish, but also for who they are.

The Bible makes it clear that the call to follow Jesus Christ is the call to serve. After Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he said to them,

“I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you.”
(John 13:15)

For Christians, serving others is a major part of living out God's love on earth.

Here at Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada, we will soon be enlarging our Area Rep ministry, and looking for more volunteers to assist our missionaries in presenting our ministry across Canada. If the Irwins and Becks are examples of the type of volunteers He has in store for us, MAF could soon become a household name in Canada.

Together with you in His service,

Ron Epp
Executive Director
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada



A “Beautiful Gate” in the midst of Africa’s Aids tragedy

MASERU, Lesotho – Not long ago, a baby in Maseru was rescued from the pit of an outhouse, where she had been left to die. Thousands of African babies are abandoned every year by mothers who are too poor or too sick to care for them.

Poverty and recurring famine are part of the story, but people here also experience the highest rates of HIV/Aids infection in the world.

The disease reaches beyond the poor to all income levels: business owners, teachers, and government officials.

Lesotho and the nearby countries of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe report nationwide infection rates of 20 to 40 percent.

In some villages, Aids has affected 90 percent of all adults, and almost every child is an orphan.

This human tragedy poses enormous challenges. Every day in Africa, 1,800 children are born HIV-positive and mothers dying of Aids face the wrenching decision of what to do with their babies.



Jeff Pleitt

Babies in need... Kari Peters holds babies at Beautiful Gate, a care centre for abandoned and HIV/Aids children.

“The bond between a mother and her child is no different in Africa than it is in Canada,” says Kari Peters, wife of Canadian MAF pilot Melvin Peters.

“We are all people created in God’s image.”

Kari regularly visits Beautiful Gate, a care centre in Maseru for abandoned and HIV/Aids-affected children.

“And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried and laid at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful ...” (Acts 3:2a)

At present, the centre is home to 20 babies, newborn to 18 months old. Kari plays with the babies, holds them, and helps them to feel loved.

“The babies are loved and well taken care of by the staff at Beautiful Gate, but they soak up any extra attention they’re given,” she says.

More space needed

When Youth with a Mission first opened this facility in a two-room house in June 2001, Kari, who has three young children of her own, did laundry for the centre in her home.

Often there were five loads a day to be washed and line-dried, a challenge in the winter. It gets cold in Lesotho, a mountainous country with the highest low point of any nation in the world.

Melvin was involved in odd jobs at the centre — tearing down a wall, building a shelf — to make the space more workable, but it soon became clear that more space was needed.

Now a special donation has made it possible for the centre to expand on a newly purchased property.

Beautiful Gate has received 1.1 million rand (about \$170,000 Canadian) from U.K. donors John and Rosemary Lancaster, the same couple who recently provided a new Cessna C208 Grand Caravan for MAF South Africa.

John Boyd, chief executive officer of MAF South Africa, is a member of Beautiful Gate’s board of directors.

“I have been working with donors for some years and had planned a donor visit to Lesotho,” John explains. While there, he showed the donors the MAF operation as well as some of the other work in which MAF staff members are involved.

“On return to South Africa, I was asked by the donors to prepare a



Val Epp

Arrival... Canadian MAF pilot Melvin Peters helps a sick woman from a mountain village in Lesotho step out of a Cessna 206. Melvin brought her into Maseru for the medical care she needed.

proposal concerning the property we had identified as suitable to grow the orphanage.

“Working with the donors was wonderful and soon I received the joyous news that they wished to entirely fund the purchase of the property,” John recounts.

Home-based care

To address the needs of families beyond the capital, MAF Lesotho is also involved with a proposal that would see rural families equipped with home-based skills and supplies to care for loved ones who are critically ill, particularly those dying of Aids.

While nurses at mountain clinics would receive extra training in counseling patients and teaching family members how to provide the daily care, MAF would make flights available for the evaluation and training teams leading the effort.

Please pray for the nations of southern Africa.

Ministries such as MAF can have a small part in helping people cope with Aids and in caring for their children, but only through renewed lives in Jesus Christ can the spread of Aids be stopped.

With four families on staff, MAF Lesotho operates two turbo-charged Cessna 206s to serve such organizations as the Lesotho Flying Doctor Service, AIM, Youth with a Mission, and the churches, including the Lesotho Evangelical Church.

Melvin and Kari Peters are from LaCrete, Alberta, and began MAF service in Lesotho in July 2000. Their three children are aged seven, six and almost five.