



LifeLink

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In remote areas of the world, where commercial flights are not available, MAF provides flights for missionaries, local pastors, humanitarian aid and economic development – so that all people can have access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the resources to meet their needs.

Worldwide, MAF has about 150 aircraft serving 30 nations.



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Shining a light for children in Chad

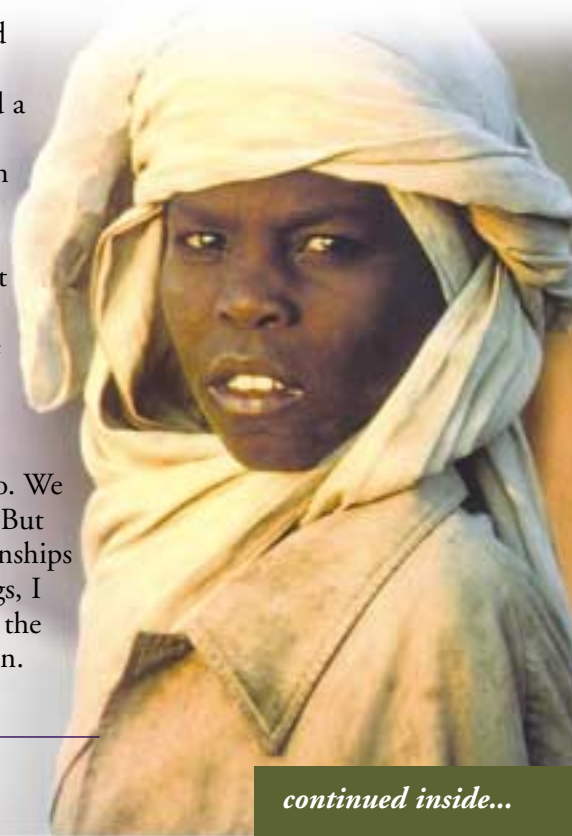
In Chad, one of the world's poorest nations, only 44 percent of boys and 32 percent of girls have the opportunity to receive a basic education up to Grade 6. Even before moving to Chad, Dorilee Hildebrandt of Abbotsford, BC, had hoped to become involved in a ministry to Chadian children while her husband Calvin provides MAF flights to needy villages. Now Dorilee and a friend have started a children's activity group in their N'Djaména neighbourhood. Dorilee gives Bible lessons in French and her friend translates into Arabic.

By Dorilee Hildebrandt

N'DJAMENA, Chad – Out our front gate and across the dirt road, there are two other gates. Inside the walls of these compounds, you find a few makeshift huts, home to our neighbours. Among them are about 10 children ranging in age from two to 14 years old.

Since arriving in Chad, our hearts have gone out to these families. When we drive out our gate, usually we will see some of the children playing in the dust by the side of the road, or we might see one of their moms returning from the market, carrying her load on her head.

From time to time, we go over and say hello. We have also had the children come over to play. But cultural and language barriers kept the relationships from going much further. Aside from greetings, I don't speak Arabic and my girls aren't used to the rough play that is normal for the local children.



Chadian boy ... This Arabic-speaking boy lives in eastern Chad.

continued inside...

Jesus said: "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may be the children of light." (John 12:36)



New day ... The sun rises in Abéché, Chad, behind a security wall topped with large shards of broken glass.

A new future for Chad?

Please pray for the Hildebrandt family in Chad as decisions are made to keep the MAF program active and effective. Pray also for the Chadian people, that more will come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. At present, about half of Chad's 9.5 million people follow Islam, 35 percent Christianity and seven percent animism.

Many in Chad don't have access to such basic needs as sufficient food and water, let alone education and health care. But Chadians are hoping their lives will improve now that Exxon Mobil, Chevron Texaco and the World Bank have built a \$4 billion, 1,000-km pipeline to bring oil from land-locked Chad through Cameroon for shipment off the Atlantic coast.

To ensure the poor in Chad will benefit from oil exports, the World Bank is holding Chad's share of new oil revenues in escrow in London and monitoring all withdrawals.

Chad still has a long way to go to become a more stable nation. This May, shooting broke out in the capital after Idriss Deby, president of Chad since 1990, introduced constitutional changes to make himself president for life.

Stirring up dust ... An MAF C206 lands in Bebaem, Chad. With 20 percent more land mass than the province of Ontario, Chad has only 300 km of paved road, but 50 aircraft landing strips. Only seven of the landing strips are paved.

Shining a light...

continued from front page

One night during devotions with our three daughters, aged six, four and almost three, we were discussing how we "love our neighbours." Grace, our eldest, really couldn't see how we were sharing much of the love of Jesus Christ with our actual neighbours, the children across the street. Her questions echoed the desires in my own heart. These children were right there and I knew we could do more to share the love of Jesus with them. Aside from helping with their obvious physical needs, I longed to share the Gospel with them.

When I mentioned to our girls that I thought about having a neighbourhood Bible Club, they got excited and I knew that this was a good way to allow them to share their faith, too.

Language still being the barrier, I asked a Christian Chadian friend of mine, Odile, who regularly comes over for conversational French tutoring, if she could help me. Her enthusiasm was all that was needed to fan the spark. Since she speaks Arabic as well, we decided that we would do the club in both languages. Some of the older children who have been to school know some French and the translation would allow for the younger ones and mothers to understand.

We recently held our third club. Including Odile's and my children, there were about 20 kids in our backyard. We start out with a game. What a joy to see all the children participating and playing together! They love "Duck, Duck, Goose" and last time they taught us a new game.

Afterwards we all sit on a mat and enjoy juice and a healthy snack. This is where my older daughters, Grace and Mariah, have had a chance to help. They help to make the snack and then help to serve.

After the snack, we have a Bible lesson. Our focus has been God's love for us shown through creation. It has been such a delight to see Koubara, who has come along each time with her three children, listen with interest

Reaching out ... Dorilee Hildebrandt teaches a Bible lesson in N'Djaména.



Poorest of the poor ... Children smile for the camera in Korobo, Chad.

and interact with comments and answers to questions. She told me how happy she was that we were doing this.

Another non-Christian Chadian friend of mine also happened to come by one day during the club. I was nervous about what she would think of us teaching the Bible to a Muslim family, but afterwards she told me it was a great idea!

Each time we hand out a Bible picture and spread out crayons for colouring. Each child (and mother) takes great pride in his or her picture. I was amazed to see the oldest boy, who is 13, colouring alongside the four year olds, trying his very best to pick good colours and then showing me or Odile for approval.

After colouring, everyone goes and enjoys the swings, slide and teeter-totter on the MAF compound, another novelty for these children.

This monthly Bible club is a gift from God and it is a privilege to have these children at our home.

I know He placed all of us on the same road here in the capital of Chad for a reason. These children and their mothers are so precious in the eyes of Jesus and we pray that He will become very real to them!

In Chad, MAF operates two Cessna 206s and a Caravan. Calvin Hildebrandt provides flights for missionaries, Bible translators, Chadian pastors and rural health care. Since September 2003, he has also been busy flying relief workers into eastern Chad where about 150,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to escape brutal attacks on civilians by Arab militants in Sudan's Darfur region. He has flown into the towns of Abéché and Tiné for Medair, Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), the Red Cross, Unicef and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Notes from supporters

"MAF has had a vital part in the ministry of our church's missionaries. Therefore we also like to support MAF as much as possible..."

E.S., Brantford, Ontario

"I love the work of MAF and pray for you. While in Eritrea as a missionary, I saw the work of MAF at first hand. God bless all of these brave souls, flying often in the face of danger."

L.P., Caronport, Saskatchewan

"Bless your ministry staff for doing God's work. They are to be commended for flying into remote parts of the world, and helping and serving isolated people, also for spreading God's Word."

I.H., Calgary, Alberta

"Many years ago, I met MAF pilots in Ethiopia. I remember one trip from Jimma to Waka, about 10 minutes to the landing field and then a half-hour hike to the mission station... I can honestly say that I pray for MAF every day."

N.P., White Rock, British Columbia

"I really appreciate what *Life Link* has to say. I pray for the organization through information received from you."

T.E., Heggedal, Norway

"We always enjoy *Life Link*, reading it from cover to cover..."

A.K., Grimsby, Ontario

"Please continue to fervently spread God's love to the farthest ends of the earth."

S.H., Windsor, Ontario

IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA 18-minute flight vs. 18-day journey

VANIMO, Papua New Guinea – Recent flights by Canadian MAF pilot Richard Marples and his first officer brought three critical patients to needed medical care.

The first patient was a young boy who had fallen into a fire and burned himself badly. His family carried him for two hours over mountain trails into Lumi to meet the MAF plane. The second patient was a lady with a retained placenta, a post-natal complication that many women in PNG's jungle areas do not survive.

Arriving at Nuku for a scheduled flight, the pilots learned that a Bible school student had contracted cerebral malaria overnight and was in desperate need of transportation to hospital in Aitape.

"We also had the opportunity of taking the Bible school principal to see his sick student later the same day," says Richard. "A couple of days later, the principal walked back from Aitape to Nuku. What is an 18-minute trip by air is an 18-hour journey on foot!"

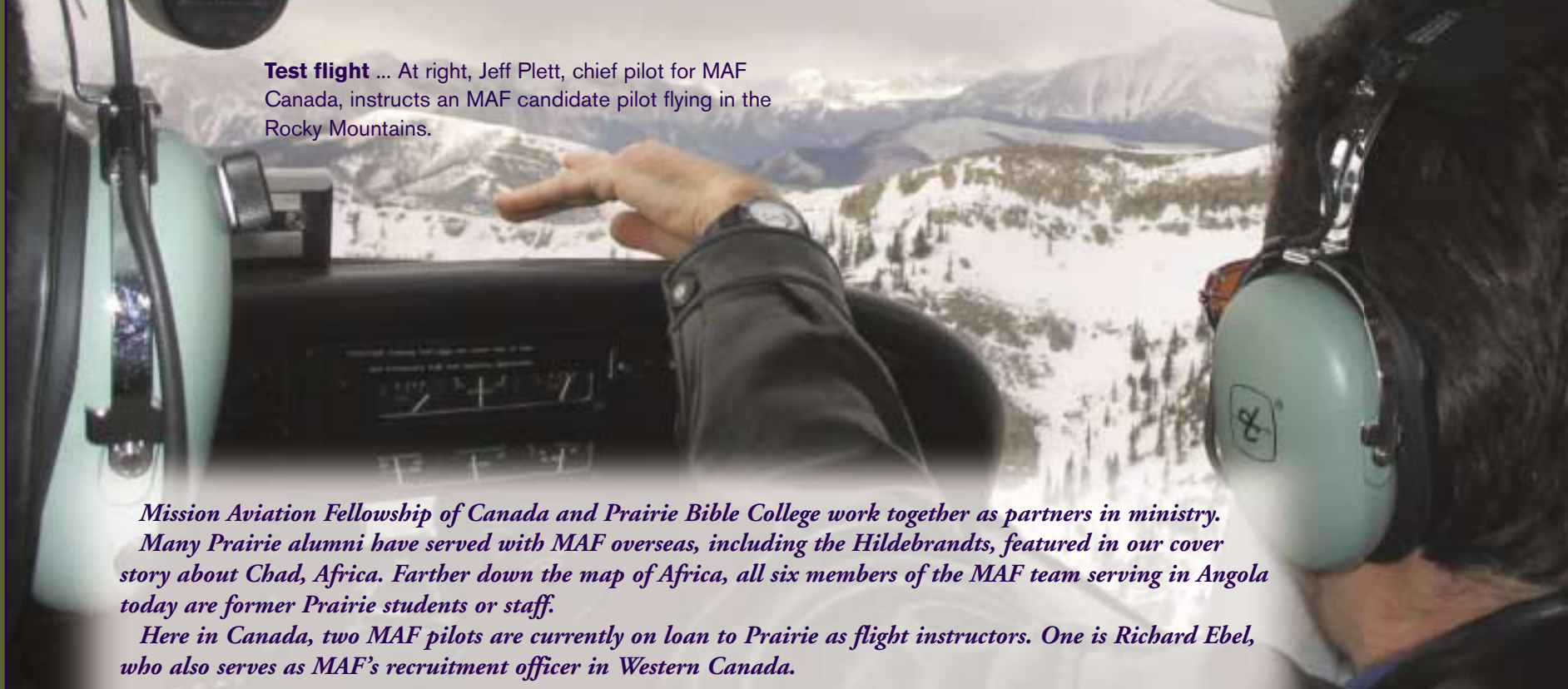
Richard pilots a Twin Otter, one of 14 MAF aircraft serving PNG. In remote areas, MAF provides the only access to hospitals, schools and markets, and the only mail-delivery, banking and medivac service.

Richard Marples and his wife Jennifer have served in PNG since 1999. Jennifer homeschools their three children, and also helps to lead Sunday school in the local church. Richard is from Kingston, Ontario, and Jennifer is from Saint John, New Brunswick.

Richard Marples ... pilots a Twin Otter serving PNG communities.



Test flight ... At right, Jeff Plett, chief pilot for MAF Canada, instructs an MAF candidate pilot flying in the Rocky Mountains.



Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada and Prairie Bible College work together as partners in ministry. Many Prairie alumni have served with MAF overseas, including the Hildebrandts, featured in our cover story about Chad, Africa. Farther down the map of Africa, all six members of the MAF team serving in Angola today are former Prairie students or staff.

Here in Canada, two MAF pilots are currently on loan to Prairie as flight instructors. One is Richard Ebel, who also serves as MAF's recruitment officer in Western Canada.

What's going on in Three Hills?

By Richard Ebel, MAF recruitment officer

THREE HILLS, Alberta – Since 1991, Prairie Bible College has been offering flight training for the purpose of preparing new missionary pilots.

From the very beginning, Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada has at different levels supported this mission aviation program. MAF has contributed board members, managers, flight instructors and aircraft resources. And in return, MAF has benefitted by having a source of well trained new missionaries to send to its flight programs around the world.

At present, MAF has two missionary families on assignment at Prairie, the Ebels and Lawrances. They bring a field perspective to the program. In addition, MAF short-termers Gary and Tammy Goertzen are also here, preparing for long-term service and sharing the experiences they gained from one year in Angola.

Along with these MAF missionaries, there are also four Prairie staff families in the application process for first-time service with MAF.

All of these folks have had a hand in preparing new pilot missionaries from Canada, the United States, Asia and Europe.

MAF has an airplane, a Cessna 182RG with the call letters GWOL (Wings of Love), based at Prairie for preparing new missionary pilots. This airplane is also used by MAF in the technical evaluation and assessment of potential MAF pilots.

Jeff Plett, chief pilot for MAF Canada, travels to Three Hills for four to six technical evaluations each year. Several years ago, Jeff himself was on loan to Prairie as a

flight instructor after serving as an MAF pilot in Kenya and Tanzania.

The purpose of Jeff's technical evaluations is to determine MAF applicants' basic and advanced pilot skills, attitudes toward safety, and teachability.

The technical evaluations span three to four days, and involve approximately

eight hours of flying to complete upper air work (basic flight manoeuvres), cross country work, and an introduction to terrain flying, west of Sundre, Alberta, in the Rocky Mountains.



Student pilots ... Richard Ebel, at far left, and his students return from a long flight to Yellowknife. At far right is Gary Goertzen, who has served with MAF in Angola.

Another aspect of MAF's work is the recruiting office located in Prairie's aircraft hangar. This allows the MAF Western Canada recruiter to be as accessible as possible to students and staff as they seek to follow God's call for them into missions. From this office, the recruiter works with potential new missionaries from all across the Canadian prairies and British Columbia.

As the mission aviation program continues to grow and mature at Prairie, not only the MAF programs around the world but other aviation ministries also will benefit from the continued investment of MAF personnel, experience and resources.

Richard Ebel and his wife Susan previously served with MAF in Arnhem Land in northern Australia, and are open to the Lord's leading in returning to overseas service. They have two children, Joshua, aged seven, and Morgan, almost five.

Airworthy Advice for New Pilots

"Always remember that you fly an airplane with your head, not your hands. Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier."

(Denny Hoekstra, MAF Director - Aviation Resources)



Thinking about a career in aviation?

In 2005, Prairie Bible College plans to offer one-week aviation camps during July and August for teens aged 14 to 18. Each camp will include six days of ground school plus actual flight time with a licensed instructor. Cost of \$600 includes accommodation and meals. For more information, contact Nick Swaim at 1.403.443.2349 or AviationCamp@prairie.edu.



Ron Epp ... with people in an isolated village in Papua New Guinea.

Servants First

Though barely a few months old, the first century church was already experiencing major growing pains. One of its earliest activities centred on caring for people, and in particular, the feeding of widows. However, the massive growth in the number of new believers was matched only by the needs of the poor and marginalized, thousands of whom were drawn to this new centre of compassion and care.

Within this emerging community of faith, there was too much need and not enough help, too many leaders and not enough servants. Little is known about the process involved, but what we do know is that meetings were held, leaders were elected, servants were appointed, and needs were met. Simple, right?

As I read Acts 6: 1-7, I confess I'm not sure my response to the job of "waiting on tables" would have been as enthusiastic as that of Stephen, Philip and the others assigned to the task. For not only did they fill these lowly servant positions, the Bible says they were pleased to do so.

Why the enthusiasm for such low-ranking positions? It wasn't for fame and glory, because they had no idea that their efforts would amount to so much. It couldn't have been for money, because the widows brought nothing but need.

Instead of holding out for a better offer, these would-be saints rolled up their sleeves and set to work. And as we know now, their efforts have echoed through time – and through the church they helped establish, lives are still being changed.

At MAF, we are servants first. Like the early church and its widows in need, we serve impoverished communities and destitute people. And like the early church, our mission and ministry depend on God for direction and on each other for support.

It's because of people like you that our ministry exists. Each and every day, the prayers and financial support of our friends and partners are helping to write new chapters in the history of a church fueled by the passion of servants.

Together with you, in His service,

Ron Epp
President/Executive Director
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada

May We Introduce...

The Hildebrandt family

Kalvin and Dorilee Hildebrandt, featured in the cover story of this *Life Link*, serve with MAF in Chad, Africa, where Calvin is chief pilot. They live on a compound in the capital N'Djaména with their three young daughters, Grace, Mariah and Julia.

Kalvin and Dorilee were raised in Christian homes and both came to know Jesus Christ as Saviour at a young age.

Born in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Calvin had an opportunity after high school to participate in inner city mission trips to Los Angeles, California, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Dorilee, also from British Columbia, was born in Dawson Creek, and raised in Williams Lake and Abbotsford. Her family taught her to see her own neighbourhood as a mission field, regardless of where she lived. Dorilee also participated in inner city mission trips – to Los Angeles, Vancouver, and Portland, Oregon.

Kalvin and Dorilee met at church in Abbotsford. After they were married in 1994,

Kalvin felt God directing him into aviation.

From 1995 to 1997, the Hildebrandts attended Prairie Bible College in Alberta where Calvin completed an aviation degree and Dorilee, a two-year associate degree in Bible and missions, with 20 credits toward an education degree. After graduating, Calvin worked as a flight instructor, charter pilot and maintenance apprentice in southern British Columbia and northern Alberta.

The Hildebrandts have been serving in Chad since March, 2001. In addition to his role as chief pilot, Calvin also has filled in as interim program manager. One of his tasks was to oversee the construction of MAF's new aircraft hangar at N'Djaména.



Hildebrandt family ... Calvin and Dorilee with Grace, Mariah and Julia.

If you are not currently supporting MAF on a regular basis, and are considering how you can get involved, please consider supporting an MAF missionary or missionary family. To begin your support, simply indicate your intention on the response card enclosed with your Life Link.

Your gifts, combined with those of other ministry partners, help us to provide our missionaries with such needs as housing, medical care and children's schooling. Even a monthly gift of \$20 or \$25 can go a long way toward providing for these needs.

IN UGANDA

Life-changing surgery

KAABONG, Uganda – When Canadians working with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) met a disabled 24-year-old Ugandan man, they were so moved by his tragic story that they decided to help him.

Months before, John Ochola had been abducted from his village and savagely maimed by the rebel group that calls itself the Lord's Resistance Army. In the attack, his nose, lips, ears and fingers were cut off – and then he was left in the bush to bleed to death. But John struggled to reach a roadway where some travelers found him.

Although he survived, John was so disabled that he could not hope to earn enough money to pay the bride price for the young woman he was pledged to marry, let alone support a family. The Canadians who met with John were amazed he did not have thoughts of revenge against his attackers, but instead had forgiven them.

MCC contacted MAF to fly John to Mbale in eastern Uganda where surgeons reconstructed his blighted hands so that he could regain some use of them, even creating a thumb-like digit on one

hand. And with further help from MCC, John now operates a small business selling cooking oil. He and his wife Grace are happy together, raising their young daughter.

"MAF provides us with a critical service, enabling us to fly safely in and out of insecure areas," says Dave Klassen, who serves as MCC's Uganda co-representative. Dave is from Plattsville, Ontario.

Rebel kidnappings and torture of civilians, including children, have been prevalent in northern Uganda for 18 years.

New start ... John with his wife Grace and their child.

Before surgery ... This is how John's hands had healed over after rebels chopped his fingers off with an axe.



After surgery ... John can use his hands now.



Grady Parrott (1908 – 2004)

REDLANDS, California – J. Grady Parrott, one of the best known and loved founders of Mission Aviation Fellowship, passed away on May 2 of this year at the age of 95.

Grady was a financial accountant and advanced flight instructor before joining MAF. During World War 2, he was on loan from the U.S. Army Air Corps to the British Royal Air Force training program in Arizona.

In 1945, he became vice-president of the MAF predecessor organization, the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship. The following year, the name was changed to MAF-US to better align the organization with the British MAF.

Grady served as president of MAF-US from 1949 to 1970 and chairman of the MAF-US board from 1970 to 1982. He is survived by a son and daughter, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Maureen, his wife of 70 years, passed away last December.

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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.



A Living Legacy...

A charitable bequest, through a will or living trust is a simple, time-honoured way of giving to MAF through estate assets.

There are several ways you can leave a gift to MAF in your estate:

- Specify an outright gift of cash, securities, real estate or tangible personal property.
- Specify a fixed sum or a percentage of the estate.
- Bequeath the residual portion of your estate.

Bequests receive a full charitable deduction from your gross estate, often resulting in significant estate tax savings.

For additional details, contact your financial planner or request our no-obligation brochure by calling toll-free: 1.877.351.9344.

Help us keep our records up to date

If you received this edition of *Life Link* through the mail, it arrived with a special response form designed to help us keep our records up to date, while easily helping you choose the amount and types of mail you receive from MAF Canada.

Please take a moment to complete the information on the form, and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided.

You do not need to include a gift to revise or update your information, or to continue receiving *Life Link* or missionary newsletters.

If you prefer, you can update your information online by visiting www.mafc.org and clicking on preferences.



We're Looking...

...for pilots with commercial licences and 500+ hours of flight time.

...for aircraft engineers with Canadian AME or American A&P licences.

...for certified information technology specialists, avionics technicians, and school teachers.

...for Canadians like you who will provide for this important work through their prayers and finances.

Current Financial Needs

The aviation industry is an expensive field, and as a non-profit organization, MAF is not exempt from the high costs involved in purchasing, maintaining, and operating our aircraft overseas.

We're seeking individuals who will help our ministry by providing for flights, repairs, and training with regular financial support. Visit www.mafc.org to see a list of current needs and the ways you can help.

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Order your FREE no-obligation Co-Pilot Coffee kit today and host a 1-hour self-guided introduction to MAF in the comfort of your home, office, or small group.

Your kit comes complete with invitations, a video, MAF introductory information, and pledge cards. You supply the coffee and desserts. What's more, after you host your Co-Pilot Coffee, you'll receive a free stainless steel travel mug. What a deal! Call toll-free 1.877.351.9344 or visit us online at www.mafc.org/coffee.htm

