



## Mission Aviation Fellowship

### **MAF Briefing – as at September 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to give an update on our work during this time of pandemic. MAF is a Christian organisation, using light aircraft to reach isolated people living in remote places in developing countries, often in deepest human need.

We are taking God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ to many people. Our work is both physical and spiritual.

The Corona virus has affected so much of life around the world. While isolation may be new and strange to us, for many around the world it is quite normal. Every country we fly in is different but generally, due to the Corona virus, our service to people is affected. Distancing is very difficult for aircraft passengers and crew, and we are fitting screens where we can in our aircraft to provide a level of protection.

Even just flying freight has been reduced due to local transport restrictions. Medical emergency flights, medevacs, are usually allowed however. We are still flying where we can.

The work of our partner organisations is affected too of course. Most of those serving with MAF and their families have remained overseas, ready to resume operations when conditions and restrictions allow.

As they do their best to protect themselves, their loved ones and colleagues, and local people, they are experiencing many of the same restrictions, and frustrations, as us. But of course, they live in very different circumstances to most of us.

Medical services in developing countries vary hugely, some are very limited and scarce, and there are real concerns should the virus spread amongst the populations.

On a practical level, MAF's income from payments for services and flights, from our partners and our customers, has dropped significantly. Although our actual flying costs, such as fuel, are reduced, aeroplanes still have to be maintained and repaired, insured, housed, and our staff need their income to support themselves and their families. We still need to pay our local employees. We have taken measures to weather this financial storm as best we can but of course our reserves are not limitless. One positive, our teams are taking every opportunity to carry out maintenance when they can, whilst flying is limited.

### **Story**

In the Morehead District in the lowlands of western Papua New Guinea (PNG), medical staff have struggled to provide the care to their patients that they would have liked. They lacked adequate training and medical supplies. Their morale was low. When the Corona virus struck, their situation was made more acute and they needed help, particularly PPE.

On 10 May, MAF flew a team from our partner Aerial Health Patrol (AHP) with medical supplies to the Morehead area.

They were able to provide teaching and training, clinics and immunisations, advice on infection control and family planning were provided. Patient care was hugely improved and staff morale was lifted.

MAF's Country Director, Todd Aebischer, explains:

- *'One of our priorities is to ensure that MAF doesn't transport coronavirus to the communities that we serve and love so much! We are being very careful in following government guidelines. These include making sure we properly sanitise our aircraft, observe social distancing, wear face masks and monitor passenger health.'*

## **Current News**

### **South Sudan**

- Recently we were able to fly Virus test samples on behalf of the World Health Organisation to Juba for analysis.
- By special authorisation we flew cargo flights for our NGO partners, taking soap, hand sanitisers, & locally made masks to areas of urgent need.

### **Madagascar**

- In a town called Betroka there was a Malaria outbreak where 80 under twelves died + adults. We flew in a medical team to teach and train and use the supplies to eradicate the outbreak.

## **Prayer**

Especially at this time, prayer is vital for us to be effective in our work. Please pray:-

1. That God will spare the poorest and most vulnerable from the effects of the virus.
2. That many will turn to him in these very uncertain and frightening times.
3. That God will protect and sustain the work of MAF and our partner organisations, and those who serve with us in each country.

## **Discovery Air Pass Journey**

We would love to give you the opportunity to find out more about MAF and to best experience our work in various countries in which we operate.

You can do this by following this link [www.maf-uk.org/discovery](http://www.maf-uk.org/discovery)

It will allow you to sign up for our Discovery Air Pass Journey. Come fly with us from country to country! Find out what it's like to live, work, and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth. Every couple of months you will receive, free of charge, a series of communications featuring background, news, stories, interviews from one of the countries.

This will enable you to pray actively for our work. Will you help us to continue the vital work we do for the poorest, most isolated people? People who may be isolated from most of the world, but are not forgotten, and who don't have to be isolated from Jesus Christ.

**Why not find out more about our work by looking at our website, [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)  
Click on [How we help](#) then [Coronavirus World News](#) for stories from [South Sudan & Chad](#)**