



An Update from Chris & Karyn Ball

Serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship
October 2019



“That’s why MAF is here, right mom?”

We spent the summer in Canada for our midterm break. It wasn’t a time meant for visiting churches or raising support, rather just time that MAF gave us to rest and relax and spend precious time with family. It was such a lovely break. Every other time we have returned from Canada to Africa, our kids have seamlessly jumped back into our world here. They have been quite oblivious

to the stark differences between Canada and South Sudan. But this time around, our six year old Will specifically seemed to notice the many differences, and has been quite vocal about it.

He greeted one of our compound workers and kindly told him, “You smell, you should have a shower.” He met a man at the grocery store and politely suggested, “You should really brush your teeth more!” Ah yes, the honesty of a child. It’s interesting to see Will begin to notice the vast differences in hygiene standards in various parts of the world.

But Will is also noticing everything else around him. On a drive home from school one day he asked me, “**Mom, why is South Sudan like this?**” I asked him what he meant by “this” and he explained that he wanted to know why Juba was so dirty and why people were poor and why everything looked bad. I explained to him that South Sudan was a country hurt by war and that the country didn’t have money to invest into things like smooth roads or new buildings or keeping the city clean. I told him that South Sudan needs peace and development so that it doesn’t have to look

like “this” anymore. He was quiet for a moment and then it was like a light bulb went off for him. From the back seat of the car he asked, “**That’s why MAF is here, right mom?**”

Yes Will! That is why we are here. To bring peace and development. To bring change and hope. **And most importantly, to share God’s love with isolated people.**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:16-17

And so we are excited to be back and ready for another season of serving him in “this” place we call home. Please pray for South Sudan, that lasting peace would come to this country. That infrastructure and development would improve the lives of the South Sudanese. And that most importantly, people will come to know and love Christ as their Saviour. Thanks for partnering with us as we share Jesus!

Chris, Karyn, Will, Addy & Kate Ball

Chris’ Recent Flight Log

Who and what have I been flying since I’ve been back?

- **AIM missionaries** serving in Ohilang, South Sudan
- **Presbyterian Church staff** meeting with local church leaders in Akobo, South Sudan
- A **German volunteer** renovating a house for our missionary friends the Zobel family who are serving with Diguna in Lokotok, South Sudan (remember Micah, the little boy that Chris medevac’d in our last newsletter?)
- **World Vision staff** working in Tambura, South Sudan
- **Christian Mission Aid staff and cargo** including 130 kilos of vaccines and 420 kilos of supplies (food, tables, chairs, etc) for their remote base
- **Embassy of the Netherlands** meeting with Plan International in Torit, South Sudan
- **Norwegian Refugee Counsel staff** working in Yei, South Sudan
- **Don Bosco Catholic NGO** bringing a nun and medicine to Maridi, South Sudan
- **Instructing a new MAF pilot** and signing him off to fly solo for the first time here in South Sudan

As always, we are thankful for your support of our ministry with MAF. We really couldn’t do what we do here without your prayer and financial partnership.

Chris



What is Shopping Like?

We asked what you want to know about our life in South Sudan, and you asked what shopping is like in Juba. So here's just a taste of our shopping experiences here in South Sudan. What do you want to learn about in our next newsletter?



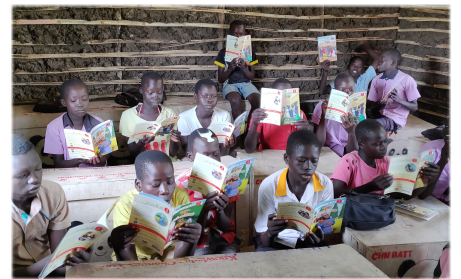
We don't have "one stop" shopping here. It is much more of a mixture of big grocery stores, little shops and the local market. You really can't find everything you need in one place, but rather have to figure out where you should buy what. We buy ground beef, fresh chicken and yogurt at our favourite grocery store. We buy toilet paper, chips and canned tuna from a small local shop. We buy bread and bananas from local ladies on the street. We get some fruit and veggies from a small market stall close to our house. And I text our favourite guy Kintu with a list as long as my arm for supplies from the big markets. We stock up on fancier, luxury items like butter, chocolate and diapers when we travel to Kenya. It's not easy shopping here, but we love it because it is always an adventure. You really never know what you will find, or more likely, what you won't be able to find. And the relationships we get to build with our community as we shop locally are great. Check out our video at <https://bit.ly/31Q4f6c> to get a taste of our day to day shopping here in South Sudan!

Learning to Read with Bible Story Books

I continue to love teaching at the local school, it is honestly the highlight of my week. This year I am volunteering every Tuesday morning teaching English to grades 4-7. I am so grateful for the privilege to teach here in South Sudan and especially for the freedom to share about Jesus in the classroom. My students range in age from 10 to 16. Many of them can't read or are struggling readers. The school doesn't have books nor do the children have books at home. But what types of books should I use to teach them to read? Early elementary readers? "Cat in the Hat" is the right reading level, but not of interest to teens. And then a missionary friend here introduced me to ZonderKids "I Can Read" Bible Story levelled readers. Perfect! Now I can easily

incorporate God's Word and the good news of the gospel into each of my English lessons! But where and how would I get these books? Due to a generous donation from the Best Years Seniors group at Richmond Hill Baptist Church, I've been able to buy over 70 Christian books. And then some friends brought them over in their suitcases. I now have tons of Bible story based levelled readers for the many students who are still learning to read as well as a Christian biography for those who can read. The hope is that not only will I be able to help the children learn to read, but that what they will be reading will actually change their lives! It gives me goosebumps to hear the children read together in unison "Jesus was born to save us from our sins." Yes He was and I pray that they will each personally come to faith in Christ as they read about Jesus and the peace He gives.

Karyn



Answered Prayers

- We have a new teacher at JCA. The kids all love Ms Juhl who has come from the USA. What a big blessing!
- Addyson's hearing aid went for a swim in the pool. Oops! We were able to quickly get it back to Canada via a friend. Praise God the damage was repairable and covered under insurance.
- Will split his forehead open at school after running into a metal post while playing tag. We are thankful the wound could be closed with just some Steristrip skin closures and that it wasn't more serious.
- MAF South Sudan has two residential compounds, one in Hai Cinema (where we used to live) and one in Korok (where we now live). The Hai Cinema residential compound had an attempted break-in one night. A guard doing his rounds scared the intruder away. Praise God for continued safety!



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