

The Lord is with us

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COVID-19: a message from MAF UK's CEO



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. The Lord Almighty is with us.

Psalm 46

As I write in this time of great uncertainty, at MAF UK we have felt God draw us to these precious verses from Psalm 46, and I wanted to remind you of them now.

Many of you will be at home working, caring for children or self-isolating to protect your family and those most vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. Thank you for all you are doing to fight this virus and look after one another.

While we all take time to adjust and process the impact of this upheaval, I would like to take a moment to remind you of the ever-present and powerful strength of our God. And I would also like to reassure you that *you* are part of the MAF family. We value you so much and are here to encourage and include you in how we respond to this global crisis.

With 75 years of pioneering mission to the remotest places on earth, we know so well how isolation can threaten human development, physical health and spiritual freedom. It is strange to think that many of us in the UK will be experiencing the isolation MAF has been flying to overcome across the developing world for decades.

My prayer is that you feel connected to us today.

As an organisation, we are remaining connected to one another, and our vision to help the most isolated is driving us through this storm. We are in uncharted territory, but our MAF UK team will still be on hand to answer your questions, send you regular updates and process any of your kind donations in the coming weeks.

Our staff in the UK are currently working from home where possible to help reduce the spread of the virus and adhere to Government recommendations. As a leadership team, we are monitoring official advice and procedures daily so we can vigilantly protect the MAF family and our communities.

Internationally, MAF is experiencing changes to flying across many of our operations. Each programme is compiling input from MAF's Immediate Response Teams, who are very experienced at tackling crisis situations. Tailored actions are being crafted for each country where we work to make sure our staff are protected and the needs of the most vulnerable are met.



Our Management are following six simple priorities to make sure we continue to demonstrate the love of Christ by:

- Protecting our beneficiaries and partners as much as possible to avoid spreading COVID-19 in remote places
- Caring for staff across MAF so they can continue to serve
- Maintaining flight operations to reach isolated people in need
- Communicating with our supporters so they can continue to partner with us
- Seeking to return to normal operations as soon as possible
- Upholding our commitment to be a caring and dedicated organization

The effects of COVID-19 on our mission and our world are pronounced. MAF will continue to adjust to changing realities both on a local and global scale, reminding ourselves daily that the King is on the Throne.

Recently, our dear friend and co-founder Stuart King turned 98, and was able to celebrate with us in the UK office. It was such a joy and a privilege to celebrate his special day.

Stuart always wants you to feel included in our MAF journey and remains indebted for your love and support.

As he left the office, Stuart said:

“MAF is a family, so remember that. You are part of us, and I thank you for your faithful support. I am grateful to be part of this family too, and that God has enabled me to be involved. God bless you and make you a blessing to others. And He surely will.”

We are praying for Stuart, and thousands of others who are either vulnerable or isolated today.

We are also praying for you, and hope that you and your families remain safe throughout this season.

If you would like to be in touch with us, please call [01303 852819](tel:01303852819) or email supporter.relations@maf-uk.org

May God bless you and your loved ones, and may He feel very present during this time of trouble.



Ruth Whitaker
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