



# SERVING TOGETHER

The Holsten Family

Serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship since 2000

## A Trip to the DRC

In December, I (David) traveled to the eastern side of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), to the city of Bunia where an MAF base is located.

This trip immersed me in many of the things that I love about MAF's ministry: close-knit community, a care for those who are hurting, a commitment to excellence, sacrificial obedience to Jesus, airplanes, tropical fruit, and more. I was also reminded of those things about our work that are simply hard: jarring levels of suffering, security concerns, distance from friends and family, power outages, bad roads, malaria, and more. All these things, the good and the difficult, are woven into the tapestry of our ministry.



Sadly, the DRC has experienced decades of conflict. In recent years, millions of Congolese fled from their villages searching for safety.

Today, a significant focus of our ministry in eastern DRC is to provide scheduled shuttle service (our "air bridge") three times a week over the conflict zones that have made surface travel extremely dangerous. Additionally, our team provides a cross-border shuttle twice a week to Entebbe International Airport in Uganda.

Our passengers are grateful to have an option to travel to the areas we serve. Samaritan's Purse, Africa Inland Mission, and SIL are just a few of the ministries that rely on our flights. One missionary described MAF's service as being "mission critical" to their work.

During my visit, I accompanied some of our team members to one of the many IDP (internally displaced person) camps that has sprung up in parts of East DRC. In these camps, tens of thousands of people can be packed into temporary structures.

Our MAF team sponsors some basic resources to those in the camps in the form of sewing and literacy classes. I was able to attend a graduation ceremony for those who participated in the classes. For an hour that day, joy and laughter rang out, a beacon of light in a very dark place!





What an honor it was to share in this celebration! Your partnership with us in the ministry of MAF is enabling this kind of work to take place. We are so grateful for your prayers and support that enable this kind of life-changing work to take place around the globe!

*The Holstens*

## Prayer and Praise

- Please pray for our travels this spring, with trips to the DRC again for David and other MAF speaking engagements.
- Praise the Lord with us for good times with all our kids over New Year's.
- Praise the Lord with us that the Moi people in Papua, Indonesia, now have the New Testament in their own language!
- Please pray for Zoe and Luke, that they can finish the school year strong.



"But you will receive  
power when the Holy  
Spirit comes upon you.  
And you will be my  
witnesses in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea and  
Samaria, and to the  
ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8



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MAF missionaries raise support for a pooled fund out of which MAF covers salary, housing, benefits, and staff-related ministry expenses. MAF exercises discretion over the use of missionary support to carry out its mission and care for its staff.