



MAF
Mission Aviation Fellowship

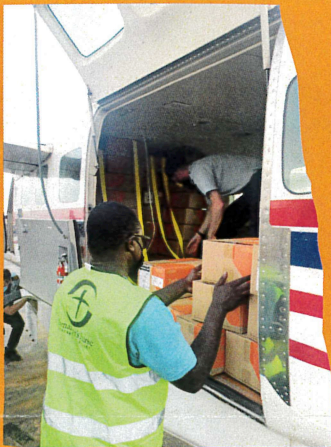
**SERVING
TOGETHER**

David and Natalie Holsten Summer 2026

EBOLA CRISIS IN DR CONGO

In mid-May, the news broke about another outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This region of the world, which David has had the chance to visit, faces so many difficult challenges, and we lament that our Congolese brothers and sisters are facing another crisis. By mid-July, over 1,900 Ebola cases had been confirmed and more than 700 deaths.

The Ebola virus carries with it a series of hardships. Even if someone survives a bout with the virus, the symptoms—such as vomiting, extreme fatigue, and bleeding—can be horrible. It's such a serious illness that those affected are kept isolated and feel the stigma. Many lose their lives.



The epicenter of the current Ebola outbreak is in Bunia, the city where MAF's eastern Congo team lives. The danger of infection is real, but our team has put familiar protocols in place in order to keep serving.



Although MAF families have temporarily moved to Uganda, the pilots are continuing to fly doctors and supplies into Bunia and affected areas. They also helped evacuate the family of Dr. Peter Stafford—a friend to many of our EDRC staff—who contracted Ebola early on.

According to *Christianity Today*, a 12-year-old boy who had been under Dr. Peter's care prayed for his surgeon: "Dr. Peter healed me, so I'm going to pray that God heals Dr. Peter." Joyfully, we report that God answered his prayer!

We ask for your prayers. Pray for healing from the Ebola virus and from the trauma of isolation. Pray that those with the virus would find the help they need. Pray for the pilots, mechanics, and their families. May the Lord extend mercy.

~ Photos: Working with Samaritan's Purse, MAF pilots transport cargo to assist with battling the Ebola virus.



SABBATICAL REST

We are back at work at MAF following our three-month sabbatical. We are so grateful we had the opportunity to step away from all ministry responsibilities and get some much-needed rest.

David built a canoe. Natalie enjoyed venturing to different places around Idaho for her newspaper column. We took some trips, including a family vacation to Costa Rica. Our kids said it felt so much like Indonesia that it was a bit like going “home.”

We took lots of walks, enjoyed leisurely mornings and conversations over coffee. We spent time in the Word and in prayer. We feel refreshed and ready to serve again! Thank you for praying for us during this time.

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

We are often asked what our biggest need is. Many times, it's from friends or supporters who want to know about our financial needs or areas to pray for our family. Today, we want to ask you to pray for a need that we've been feeling more and more here at MAF. That need is for people. I suppose we shouldn't be surprised—Jesus told us in the gospels that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

At MAF, we have seen the Lord provide time and time again in so many miraculous ways. He has opened doors to countries that have been closed to other workers. He has provided for expensive aircraft and the building of hangars. He has guided our mission to the literal ends of the earth. Now, as we open a new program in Nigeria and work to meet many needs around the MAF world, we see a gap in the number of people needed to do the work.

Would you pray with us? Pray that God would work through our Mobilization teams to bring the people He is calling to serve with us at MAF. We desire to see isolated people transformed by the love of God—and that isn't accomplished by airplanes alone. It is done through His people and the power of the Holy Spirit working through them.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

- Pray for healing and hope in DR Congo as individuals, families, and communities face the challenges of the Ebola outbreak.
- Pray for protection and strength for MAF teams serving in affected areas and continuing critical flights.
- Praise God that MAF is available to assist with such a huge need.
- Praise God for new missionaries preparing to go overseas.
- Pray for more pilots, mechanics, IT workers, and teachers to serve with MAF—this is our ministry's greatest need!

THANK YOU!!

We are often reminded that we could not do what God has called us to do without faithful friends like you standing behind us.

We see your support as a ministry of its own. Your prayers sustain us, your encouragement refreshes us, and your generosity provides the means to continue serving where God has called us.

Thank you for your part in bringing help, hope, and healing to isolated people around the world. We are deeply grateful for you.

David & Natalie

MAF PO Box 47
Nampa, ID 83653

Donor Services
(208) 498-0759

dholsten@maf.org
nholsten@maf.org

www.maf.org/holsten