

Congo Connection ...from Idaho!

Airstrip at Nebobongo, DRC

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The Newsletter of Dave and Donna Jacobsson—Serving Jesus with Mission Aviation Fellowship

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“See, I am doing a new thing!” Isaiah 43:19

A New Season... Mid-January brought us to the end of our *normal* furlough time. Now, instead of returning and settling back into life and ministry in Congo for a new term—we find ourselves on a new journey of settling more here in Idaho. Our hearts are still in Congo—yet we *know* this is a season God has called us to, and we are excited to see what new opportunities for meaningful service, learning and growth are ahead as we keep seeking to know, serve and love Jesus more. *Thank you for your faithful partnership in prayer and giving as we continue in this new season of MAF service.*

Dave to Florida—Haiti Earthquake Disaster Response...

January 18 we received a call from MAF asking Dave to help with MAF's Haiti disaster response. So Dave's first day of work at our Nampa headquarters was postponed—and he was on his way to Florida within 24 hours to join relief efforts with our mission partner **Missionary Flights International (MFI)**. MFI has served Haiti for over 45 years and Dave felt blessed to join hands with them for two weeks. Dave helped with coordinating logistics for the massive effort and flight operations: tons and tons of relief supplies, unending medical and emergency teams rotating in and out of Haiti, and missionary evacuations, as well as coordinating logistics with our MAF team on the ground in Haiti. He, along with many others have worked 16+ hour days, non-stop...He arrived back to Idaho this week tired—but it's a “good tired”. A retired MAF colleague, Bob Fish rotated in to take Dave's place.

Let's pray together for endurance, strength, and wisdom in the long haul relief planning for the MANY missionaries, pilots, mechanics, forklift operators, relief workers, volunteers, pastors, doctors, nurses, etc...it is an amazing army of MANY joining together to bring healing and hope to Haiti in Jesus' Name.



MFI, Ft. Pierce, Florida—Loading a C-130.
2000+ passengers transported to/from Haiti
440,000+ lbs of relief cargo delivered to Port-au-Prince, Haiti
during the first 2 weeks of MAF/MFI earthquake relief partnership!!

Back in the Congo Skies...

Last November, Dave had a great several weeks flying in eastern Congo helping our MAF team at our base in Bunia. He happily fit back into routines—enjoyed *not* being “in charge,” loved flying full days in the Cessna 208 Caravan, helped with aircraft maintenance, as well as whatever else needed doing! While he loved being back in the Caravan cockpit again (can you tell from the photo?), *the best part was having the privilege again of using the red and white aircraft with the dove on the tail to be a tangible reminder of God’s love and healing to Congo as he brought in relief supplies and humanitarian workers to displaced-people camps in the north, transported pastors for teaching conferences, and Bible translation teams for workshops.* Another BEST part was the unbeatable Congolese hospitality, food and fellowship with dear friends in Bunia and Nyankunde. He stayed at our “old house” in Bunia with our new E.DRC MAF couple, Joey and Kathleen Martin. Dave was touched to see the fresh energy of the “next generation” settling into Congo life and MAF flight ministry.



Dave and Idaho Building Teams to Nyankunde, DRC in March...

Dave leaves for Congo again February 27 with the first of two building teams from Boise area churches to continue rebuilding our MAF base at Nyankunde which was destroyed in 2002. This is a repeat work trip for the Ustick Baptist Team (February 27 - March 14) who went last year, and a first trip for the Summit Team (March 14-29). They plan to set up a carpentry workshop in the small hangar and work on 2 more missionary staff homes (electrical wiring, plumbing, inner ceilings, etc.). Pray for good health and safety for Dave and the teams, for continued good security in the surrounding area and that God will mutually bless the teams and the Nyankunde community through these efforts.



A New Season...Dave with MAF's new Kodiak Aircraft
MAF Hangar, Nampa, ID USA

On the Home Front...

Matthew (16) is having a fantastic 11th grade year at Cole Valley Christian High School. It has been a great fit—he loves his teachers and classes. He keeps busy with homework, his first job (the school's coffee cart), friends, and running. He's excited to soon begin a driver's education course. **Andrew** (9) has settled well in 3rd grade in public school. We're thankful for his wonderful teacher. He keeps busy with AWANA Bible Club, neighbourhood friends and is wishing for more SNOW this winter! He is excited to be signed up for spring soccer. I, **Donna**, am adjusting to being an *American Mom* 😊—school runs, chauffeuring for activities, keeping track of everyone's schedules, helping in Andrew's classroom, being in a *Moms in Touch* prayer group at Matt's school, and trying to be disciplined in my Idaho Nurse Refresher course (self study). We've found an unexpected “Congo

Connection” through fellowship with a wonderful Congolese refugee family newly settled here in Boise. There is a growing Congolese population here! I would like to get training to help with English tutoring.

Let's persevere in prayer for Congo and Haiti. Thanks for praying for our family in this “new season.”

*In His Wonderful Grace,
The Jacobssons—Dave, Donna, Matthew, and Andrew*