



## LePoidevin Prayer Release

Dear Praying Family and Friends,

### NOT YOUR EVERYDAY PASSENGERS

APRIL 2018

Being a pilot for MAF (or Ambassador Aviation, as we are called in Mozambique) can bring Dave into contact with people of great influence. Dave and our colleague, Kent, spent four days flying the First Minister (a government minister who is over other ministers) and a few other lesser ministers around the islands along the northern coast of Mozambique. First Minister Correia is responsible for Land, Environment, and Rural Development, and he and the other ministers were accompanying the President of Mozambique on this trip (the president and his entourage was transported in two helicopters). In a conversation with Dave, First Minister Correia voiced an interest in using Caravan airplanes to reach rural and isolated areas to support medical care (rotate staff, bring medicines in and patients out) and small bank branches (bring them cash). It is maybe a long shot, and maybe not what God has in mind, but this idea fits very well with how we as MAF are positioned to help reach isolated people using our airplanes. (Dave did not get a photo of First Minister Correia; this picture shows part of the crowd that came to meet the airplane.)



- ***Please pray for wisdom to know if we should pursue a project like this with the government***
- ***Thank the Lord for sometimes unusual opportunities we have to share what MAF is all about and why we are here***

### THE NECESSARY OF IT (Information Technology)

The way our world is moving, we are getting more and more dependent on IT to operate as an MAF program. Email, internet-based shared information, etc. means we have to have a system in place that works and that can handle the necessary processes for what we do. It can be a full time job just to keep all the systems running and working! We do not have such a person here; the job is done by one of our colleagues who also has other responsibilities. As the load was getting overwhelmingly big, we were very grateful that MAF Headquarters sent one of their IT guys to spend a week with us, helping us sort out many IT related things. He gave some much-needed training to our colleague and took a thorough look at our server and network and repaired several problems. In addition to his, he worked on computers needing some TLC.

- ***Praise the Lord for the IT help and support we received***
- ***Please pray for the necessary resources to keep the systems in good order***

### OTHER HAPPENINGS

Our colleague, Grady, went to Portugal to have surgery related to a bike accident he had there two years ago while in language school. The surgery went well, and afterwards he started two weeks of physical therapy.

The Simpson family returned from furlough this month! We are grateful to have them back with us. They had some exciting news to share: they are expecting a new family member, due to arrive in October. ☺ Unfortunately, they will not be with us long enough for us to meet their new baby; in June they will move to Lesotho to work with the MAF program there.

At the very end of the month, Dave, Annie, and I traveled to Cape Town together with our Mozambican administrator, Diniz, and his wife, Ivone, to attend MAF's Africa Managers' Conference (AMC). More about that in the next letter. But just a picture from the famous Table Mountain to show you God's beauty in Cape Town:



- ***Please pray for Grady to fully recover***
- ***Praise the Lord for the Simpsons' baby on the way!***
- ***Please pray for the logistics of them moving to another country to go as smoothly as possible***

## **FAMILY UPDATE**

We sometimes benefit from Karina working at an animal clinic. She gets free samples of tick/flea/worm treatments for dogs (and she herself has only cats), and when there is a hand carry option to Mozambique, Karina sends the samples to us via them. This last time we got a good supply that will last several months!

Sylvia has settled into life in San Francisco. As with any new job, it is a busy time to figure out everything about it.

Thomas is still waiting on details for his trip to Asia in June/July, while continuing to work full time in Longview, Texas. He is hoping to be able to visit us in Mozambique on the way. God is giving him a hard lesson in trust, which is growing his faith to new heights.

Annie finished her 2<sup>nd</sup> term at Rapale International School with flying colors! The term ended with a Swimming Gala (a school-wide competition). Competitive swimming is not Annie's favorite thing to do, but she participated in all the races assigned to her.



- ***We are grateful that our kids are growing in faith in the circumstances they are in***
- ***Please pray that Thomas would find great joy in trusting the Lord***
- ***Thank the Lord with us for a great 2<sup>nd</sup> term for Annie***



I have been reading about the events surrounding the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem after their Babylonian exile. As they start to rebuild the temple, and later the wall around Jerusalem, they are accosted on every side by enemies and neighbors that are set on them not succeeding in their task. These enemies "discourage" them, "make them afraid", "work against them", "frustrate their plans", "scheme to harm" Nehemiah, tell lies about them, "sent letters to intimidate" them. Though there were times when the work came to a halt, in the end **"the wall was completed..."** (Neh 6:15). "When all our enemies heard about this,...they realized that **this work had been done with the help of our God.**" (Neh 6:16) What a testimony they had! It gives me new courage to not give up when opposition comes our way. With God's help, anything can be done.

Would you pray that we would continue to press on in our ministry despite setbacks and challenges? Thank you!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins

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