

September News from Chad



Greetings once again from our home in N'Djamena, where we have been since the beginning of the month.

We really appreciated the time we were able to spend in the UK in July and August, not least as we got to see so many of you in person. Thank you to everyone who hosted and housed us, fed us, loaned us a car, offered us warm clothes (!), gave us a croquet tutorial, signed for (endless) parcels addressed to us, let us win at Scrabble, took us for PCR tests, invited us to speak, helped us with tech, and listened to us share about MAF and about our family.

This is just a very quick update to say that we arrived back safely, having managed to get both our Covid vaccines and with all the cheese, chocolate and aircraft parts that we could legally fit in our luggage. We now have 3 months left in Chad to wrap up our time here and finish well. For Steve that means (amongst other things): finishing two infrastructure projects, completing a local procedures handbook, preparing handover notes for his successor, organising the logistics of our move, and continuing the day-to-day running of MAF Chad.

For Katie it means collecting the stories and photos needed to complete the donor reporting requirements for the year, and leading a 10-week English course for our local staff. We hope we will manage it all!

Thank-you also for your interest in and support of our three young men. Jack successfully graduated from Durham and has started his training as a Prison Officer. He's currently working out where to live and looking for a church to connect with.

Toby moved into his second-year house in Winchester at the the end of August with five of his friends and is getting busy playing hockey while he waits for term to start.

Ethan produced an excellent set of GCSE results and is back at Monkton pursuing A-levels in English, Spanish and Media Studies. He is focussing on badminton as his sport for this term, cleverly remaining warm, dry and indoors (as opposed to cold, wet and outdoors, which he would have been if he had continued coxing).

We are grateful that they are all doing well and that life continues without too much disruption from Covid. We hope that is your experience too.

Thank you as always for your ongoing friendship, support and prayers. We will send one more update in December.

Until then,
Steve, Katie, Jack, Toby and Ethan Machell

