



# The Vennell-a Scoop

## Airmailed to Nairobi, Kenya

When I say "airmailed to Kenya" I am not just talking about a small box, but rather, the WHOLE Vennell bunch. MAF has asked me to become the Operations Director of our largest African program. After spending the last year and a half studying leadership and almost completing a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership, it is time to put it into practice. We will be moving to Nairobi, Kenya, on August 3rd.



This may seem like a very quick decision, and I can not disagree with you. After my few weeks in Haiti the Lord opened the door for us to take this position. Tonya and I made a short trip to Kenya, with a stop in the United Kingdom at the MAF-International headquarters, and we feel this assignment will be a good fit for our entire family. There will be many new responsibilities that will enable me to apply all that I have spent learning over the last few months. The Kenya program has 22 international staff families like ourselves and over 50 Kenyan staff. The 11-14 pilots I will be working with are from 9 different countries, and we will be the only Americans.

The girls will begin school at Rosslyn Academy (Christian missionary school) and seem to be very excited about all the new possibilities, with just a hint of anxiousness for the many unknowns. Tonya is excited to think of all the new ministry areas she can be involved in, while at the same time utilizing our home to reach out. She is very excited to get involved in one of the many orphanages found in Nairobi.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we embark on yet another chapter in the book that God is writing with our lives. There are many things to accomplish over the next few weeks, and we ask that you pray for all these preparations and goodbyes that have to take place.

## The Haiti Earthquake, Leadership and MAF

During the last few months there have been many opportunities to apply the ideas of strategic leadership and one of those was working with MAF after the earthquake in Haiti. I had recently began two of my last three courses when the earthquake struck. I felt the Lord pulling at my heart to help out, so I volunteered to work with our other MAF colleagues in Port-au-Prince (the capital). I arrived there only days after the devastating disaster and quickly found the needs far outweighing the workers. After three weeks of intense days, it was finally time for a break, and I returned home. But I was only home for a day when MAF's Disaster Response Manager asked me to return for another five weeks to take his place, so he could get a much needed break. There were many opportunities to work with so many loving and caring people from all over the world, including my MAF colleagues. There were also ample opportunities to use the leadership skills that I had been working on for the preceding months. It was great to have been part of such a wonderful team of people who were serving the Lord. Please keep the people of Haiti in your hearts and prayers, as they continue picking up the pieces and working through the losses of so many family members.



## MAF-Kenya

From Nairobi, Kenya, the ministry of MAF reaches into as many as 10 other surrounding countries. In fact, about 70% of our flying in Kenya is leaving the country (international). The majority of this flying is concentrated into southern Sudan. Our desire is to support the much needed outreach into this devastated area. We work with many different organizations, from the single, independent missionary, to the much larger Christian organizations like World Vision, Tear Fund, Med Air, Christian Blind Mission, and a host of others. Nairobi is the central hub and headquarters for many of the mission/humanitarian organizations in Africa. It is a town of close to 4 million people, of whom many need the Lord. Please join with us as we step out in faith to help reach these far off places. We are looking forward to serving in this beautiful, yet needy country.



### Realities Of This Furlough (time in the USA)

These last few months have been a busy time for the Vennell family. It has been marked with many great memories with family friends and churches. There have been a few realities that have shown up this time that we did not seem to notice in times past. One is that the Church in America is struggling not only for its own identity, but also for its identity in Christ. We have had churches who have lost their pastors, others where conflict has broken them apart, and yet others where membership has dropped off to the point that supporting missionaries is no longer an option. We have also seen some that have been experiencing growth of new believers like never before. It has made us realize that no matter what state the Church is in, she is loved by and sought after by Christ Himself. He is still in the Kingdom-building business and is transforming lives all over this great nation. Not only have we seen great changes in our churches, but we have also seen great changes in our families. Both of our extended families have grown, and we have enjoyed the chance to get to know our families more during our time in America. We realize more than ever that this return to Africa will be one of the hardest as we, and our kids, have become more attached to parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and cousins. We have also gotten accustomed to all the benefits of living in this great nation. We realize that Nairobi will not have the convenience or the amenities that we have become accustomed to. Please pray that God will give us a special measure of grace to easily accept what He has for us! There are many realities yet unknown to us in Kenya, and we would ask that you keep us in your prayers as they become known. It is through your prayers and support that we have been able to serve the Lord through the work of MAF. Thank you again for staying with us, and we look forward to this newness together!

Please use this prayer card as a reminder to pray for our family as we serve in Kenya!!

*"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast." Psalms 139:9,10 (NIV)*

Blessings,

*Jim and Tonya*

If you are interested in knowing specifics about our move, cost associated with it, and supplies needed just simply write, call or email us! Thanks!!

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Note it: For Vennells' ministry

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