



The Fuller Family Link

Spring
2013

A New Satellite Service and New Experiences

You've heard us talk before about MAF's IT ministry. In many of the remote places we fly there is also a lack of communications infrastructure, and so we integrate technologies that make communicating in these places possible. In the Democratic Republic of Congo alone we have installed over 20 VSAT satellite Internet systems. Some of the users of our systems include Bible translation teams, pastors and churches, universities, relief organizations, and NGOs who rely on Internet access for research, training, collaboration, logistics, and staying in contact with their supporters.

Last month in Bunia we changed over from our old satellite provider to MAF's new service. In addition to improving our Internet connectivity, it was a chance to share some knowledge with a couple of Congolese technicians. Sabato is an intern I recently hired to help out with the day-to-day IT work. He studied IT at UCBC (the bilingual Christian university in Beni), and has had some experience working for NGOs in town. The other guy who helped out that day was Eddy, who just finished up an IT program at Uganda Christian University. These men both have some good IT knowledge, but had never worked with a VSAT system before. We had a few problems with the transition, so they really got a chance to learn through troubleshooting. It was great to have their help, because much of the work required more than one person. Even the work I could have done alone went faster--many hands makes light work, as they say.

With more VSATs to change over to our new service in the coming weeks, new installations on the horizon, and other IT projects pending it will continue to be important to have good help with the IT ministry! What better way to do it than by training Congolese technicians?



From top : 1) Owen and Eddy prepare to realign the VSAT dish in Bunia, DRC. 2) Sabato and Eddy install some new electronics for the VSAT. 3) Victory! Owen, Sabato, and Eddy celebrate a successful transition of the VSAT to a new satellite service.

Third MAF Africa IT Conference



During the second week of April, MAF staff from around Africa and from our headquarters offices in the US and UK met together in Kampala, UG for the third MAF Africa IT Conference. It was a time to present what is happening in the various MAF programs in Africa, see old friends and meet new ones, learn about new skills and technologies, and discuss the role IT plays in MAF. There were about 20 of us in attendance. The days were long, but it was a great time!



A Visit to Nyankunde

On Easter Saturday our team traveled with some other expats from Bunia to the nearby village of Nyankunde. After eating lunch together we took on the local volleyball team. It was a spirited five-game match, which we lost two to three. Our kids had fun playing and running around with the Congolese kids—something they don't get to do often in Bunia. It was really good to see them making friends with the African kids despite not being able to speak together.

Nyankunde was once the home to MAF's east DRC base, which had to be abandoned when fighting came through a decade ago. In April, the Jacobssons (another MAF family) moved back to Nyankunde to reestablish a MAF presence there. While only 15 miles from Bunia, the Nyankunde base is in a critical location as it is co-located with the CME hospital—probably the best medical facility in the region. Our hope is that the presence of a MAF family and airplane will enable new opportunities to serve, and bring renewed attention to the work being done at the Nyankunde mission station.

Prayer Requests

- We're thankful to be back in Congo after our evacuation to Uganda this fall/winter.
- We are nearing the end of our first year in Africa (first week of June), and are so thankful for the ways God has used and grown us since coming to Congo.
- Lots of VSAT projects coming up, meaning quite a bit of travel for Owen. Pray for safety, that projects go well, and for the rest of the family while he is gone.



Uganda Vacation Fun

We recently spent a few days on vacation in Jinja, UG. We took a boat ride on Lake Victoria to the source of the Nile, played on the playground equipment, went mini golfing, saw Owen's cousin Brad who works for a Children's ministry in Jinja, swam in the pool, and just plain relaxed. It was a nice break from Congo. The kids have flown enough this past year they didn't believe we were actually driving somewhere out of town.



Evacuation

In November, the M23 rebel group took control of the city of Goma (230 miles south of Bunia). People in Bunia rioted against the UN for not stopping the rebels. Some of the tension turned from anti-UN to anti-foreigner, so as a precaution our team evacuated to Uganda. Our family returned in February, and things have been normal since. Know that we are doing well. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us during the experience!