

July 2024

FLYING MISSION E-MEMO

Our mission is to transform lives in our community for Christ through aviation, training and care ministries in Botswana, Zambia and the region.

FM
Flying Mission



Celebrating the Life of **Dr. Malcolm John McArthur**

- FOUNDER OF FLYING MISSION -

Psalms 116:15

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants."

Dr. Malcolm John McArthur dedicated his life to serving others through his exceptional work in the medical and missionary fields. In 1977, he founded Flying Mission, an organization committed to providing essential air transport services for medical and mission work in the remote areas of Botswana. His vision and tireless efforts have saved countless lives and brought hope and healing to many communities. Dr. McArthur's legacy of compassion, dedication, and service continues to inspire and impact lives around the world.

- EARLY WORKS -



Malcom & Gudrun McArthur

In August 1967, Malcolm and his wife Gudrun were embraced by the Overseas Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland (UFCS) for the roles of mission doctor and midwife, embarking on a heartfelt journey as medical missionaries. Their initial service at the Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Molepolole, under the guidance of Dr. Merriweather, set the stage for their impactful contributions. Malcolm later expanded his service as a General and Specialist Surgeon at the Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone. A vital part of their mission included weekly visits to the clinics in the Kalahari Desert, established by Dr. Alfred Merriweather. These journeys, often extending up to ten days, depended on the stamina of the team, the depletion rate of medicine chests, or the urgency of transporting critically ill patients to the hospital. These trips, aboard either a 5 or 7-ton Bedford truck, offered an exciting divergence from the routine hospital environment.

The inception of Flying Mission emerged directly from these expeditions, aiming to deliver medical care and the Christian Gospel to the Kalahari's remote regions. A humble fifty-dollar donation in 1978 marked the acquisition of Flying Mission's first aircraft. Registered as a charity in Botswana in 1980, the mission grew from a single aircraft and pilot to a fleet of aircraft with multiple pilots, aspiring to serve southern Africa through aviation excellence. From Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone, and Maun International Airport, Flying Mission provided air ambulance and chartered flight services. Additionally, it operated an aircraft maintenance department in Gaborone, servicing its own fleet and aircraft for other aviation entities.

- ESTABLISHMENTS -

Under Malcolm's leadership, several departments were established within Flying Mission, each serving a distinct purpose. When the AIDS epidemic surged in Botswana in the 1990s, Flying Mission responded by establishing an HIV/AIDS department in 1999, later known as Flying Mission Care (FMC). This department expanded the humanitarian reach of the mission significantly, donating bibles to hospitals and prisons. In 2005, Flying Mission Zambia (FMZ) was established and began operations as a non-profit organisation, addressing the need for aviation support for Christian ministry and development work in Zambia. Their vision focused on reaching the next generation with the message of Jesus Christ and providing logistical support to those aiding rural communities. By 2008, Flying Mission had established Botswana's first training school for aviation maintenance engineers, FM- AMETS (Pty) Ltd, known today as Aviation Academy Flying Mission. This academy, largely funded by the Botswana Government, continues to grow, producing graduates who sustain both Flying Mission's fleet and the broader aviation industry.



Hand over to the new Director

- HANDOVER -

At the beginning of 2002, John and Yvonne Lubbe officially assumed the role of Flying Mission Directors from Malcolm and Gudrun McArthur. This transition marked a significant milestone in the organisation's history and was celebrated in a memorable ceremony held at the Flying Mission hangar. The event was attended by staff, supporters, and beneficiaries of Flying Mission, all gathering to honor the McArthurs' legacy and to welcome the Lubbes into their new leadership roles. The ceremony highlighted the dedication and hard work of Malcolm and Gudrun, who had laid a strong foundation for Flying Mission's continued growth and impact. Despite stepping down from his official role, Malcolm continued to be an integral part of Flying Mission. He played a vital role overseas, providing invaluable support and guidance for the organisation. His deep connection and unwavering commitment to Flying Mission ensured that his influence and contributions remained a cornerstone of the organisation's ongoing success and growth.

- LEGACY -

Malcolm's unwavering faith and dedication to serving God through serving people leave an enduring legacy. Malcolm's visionary leadership, dedication, and perseverance transformed challenges into triumphs, creating a robust legacy. The Botswana Government's support for the Aviation Academy and its approval by various regulatory bodies underscore the profound impact of his work. Today, the academy stands as the sole institution in Botswana offering a Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. Flying Mission Zambia continues to thrive, extending Malcolm's missionary work across borders. These accomplishments testify to Malcolm's leadership, energy, courage, and unwavering commitment.

- LAST DAYS -

Malcolm and Gudrun resided at their home in Landbeach, near Cambridge, England. On March 3rd, Malcolm was taken into Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, England, with a spiral fracture of his left femur. He peacefully received his home call in the early hours of July 9th, 2024. His sister Anna was by his side through the night, and the hospital chaplain was also present for part of the time. Gudrun is being wonderfully sustained by the Lord. Her faith remains strong, though her body is weak. She continues to live in her own home, supported by carers, friends, and family members. We ask that you continue to uphold Gudrun and the family in your prayers.

Matthew 25:21:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

~TRIBUTES~

- Howard Moffat -

"I am very glad to write a few words about Malcolm and pay tribute to all that he achieved during his time in Botswana. My wife Fiona and I met Malcolm and Gudrun soon after we arrived in Botswana in 1970, when I was appointed Hospital Superintendent of the Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital (DRM) in Mochudi, and Malcolm was the Specialist Surgeon at Princess Marina Hospital (PMH). We were not only medical colleagues but also friends, a friendship that continued when both families moved to the UK after retirement and lasted nearly 50 years, culminating only in Malcolm's sad death this week.

As a specialist physician with almost no surgical background, I, along with my German colleague at DRM, had to refer all but the simplest surgical problems to Malcolm at PMH. Thankfully, he was an excellent surgeon and was always happy to give advice, regardless of the time of day or night. He never complained and was always prepared to come out to Mochudi on short notice if we had a patient who needed urgent surgery but was too ill to be safely transferred. Additionally, Malcolm would occasionally come out to do elective surgical lists for us.

I joined Malcolm at PMH in 1982, and for a number of years, we were neighbors in the Village in Gaborone, often seeing him and Gudrun socially. I observed with great admiration his establishment of Flying Mission, an incredibly complex exercise in terms of funding, recruitment of staff, housing, and administration. FM and its offshoots will remain a wonderful, permanent legacy of Malcolm's contribution to Botswana. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

- Dave Young -

"The attached picture says so much about Malcolm and Gudrun's work in Botswana and Flying Mission. From left to right: my wife Jo, Gudrun & Malcolm, Roberta & Dan Fahrni, Keneilwe (Malcolm and Gudrun's granddaughter), and Jeff & Michele Royce—all enjoying life as members of Flying Mission in Botswana. It was a special time in all of our lives, and this picture captures it perfectly with the smiles on our faces."



- Sedibeng sa Lorato Orphanage -

“Sedibeng sa Lorato started working with Flying Mission in 2001 as a home based care project under the care ministry led by Mr and Mrs Malcolm and Gudrun McArthur and Mr and Mrs John and Yvonne Lubbe from Flying Mission. The main purpose of this project was to help close gaps in the health sector by accommodating and nursing patients that had no relatives. Consecutively, the home based care grew into an orphanage in 2009 based in Gabane (Botswana). The Flying Mission team (Paul Tanner and his wife Tamia, Dr. Moffat and Dr. McArthur) were still devoted to Sedibeng sa Lorato because they helped in construction of the orphanage. They even took care of my medical bills, even now they still do. There is a lot I can say...all in all, Dr. McArthur was really a blessing and a treasure.

To a life well lived, May your soul rest in Peace.”

~ Mrs Martina Mogapi ~

- Mike Webb Flying Mission USA -

“We received the news about Flying Mission founder Malcolm McArthur's passing into eternity. On behalf of Flying Mission USA and our Board of Directors, we send our heartfelt condolences, prayers, and hopes for Malcolm's family and friends. We extend our love and prayers for Gudrun and her caregivers.

We all have wonderful memories of Malcolm. JoAnne and I have many special encounters, inspiring stories, and life-changing events with the McArthurs. Please keep us updated as the McArthur family and Flying Mission prepare for his memorial.”

-Prof Wapula N. Raditloaneng, University of Botswana-

“Who can forget Dr. McArthur and his family? I remember them well from Molepolole, from Bible class, youth, and KS2. They mobilized resources from the UK and provided for many needy families in Molepolole. They selflessly raised self-sustaining giants and God-fearing men and women. They would occasionally come here on holiday, like true family members, just like the Merriweather family and Reverend Archie Ford, who visited us last year with his family. We were blessed with missionary doctors. There are many living footprints of their work from the UCCSA Molepolole Bible class that groomed us into the professionals and servants we are today. May the good Lord honor and save the departed soul of Dr. McArthur for the many lives they touched as a family in Botswana and beyond!

I also recall Dr. Molapong and Mrs. Dineo Matlapeng as typical examples of the McArthur family's impact from the time I was a youth.”

- Pastor Emanuel Nwako, Aviation Academy FM-

“The legacy that Dr Malcolm McArthur has established and left in Botswana for us and for generations to come will live and reverberate continuously in the annals of History for eternity. The Flying Mission is indigenous to Botswana, that is, it was “conceived, born and bred” in Botswana just because of the compassion and love of Dr Malcolm McArthur and his wife Gudrun for the people of Botswana whom the two were serving as medical Missionaries when they came to Botswana in 1976. Praise be to God for the life of Dr McArthur. We have been privileged to know and work with him.



The first plane Flying Mission used for ministry



Malcom McArthur at Rerotlhe Day-care



Malcom the bird whisperer



*Malcom McArthur distributing bibles
(Dec 17 2013)*



Early Desert Trip



Dan & Roberta's Wedding Day in McArthur's Garden (April 5 1997)



Malcom speaking at the celebration of the Rotary Club donating an Ambulance to Flying Mission (Dec 12 2007)



Malcom, Ella Merriweather & KG Spicer