

Recently there are big *changes* in our MAF-team as four MAF families are leaving Tanzania. This is a lot for our small community. New families are also coming and bringing new life with them.

MAF is offering the *Internet* for other organizations too, thus we as staff have the enormous advantage to use this also and so to be in touch with the rest of the world. A real privilege! For two weeks we had some problems with our satellite contact and I felt how it is to be cut off in a remote area. But Email is working again, so I'm happy to get your message! Of course you can also use the traditional way of sending a 'paper' message, as it worked for centuries and so it does today...

I could set up a *Flug-info* (=aviation info) lately with the help of my dear Aero-Club in Hildesheim. You can find the infos (German, but at least nice pics!) on my homepage where all my newsletters can be downloaded, too.

In the end a short *Suaheli course* for everybody:

What is the Suaheli-word for 'roundabout traffic'? It is an English word plus 'i' at the end, but not 'raundabauti'. First have a guess before looking up!

Thank you for listening until now. This should be enough for the next two month or have a look at the pictures on my webside!

All the best to you wherever you are.

GOD be with you till we meet again,

*Tutaonana, Yours (Aero)-Gero*



Contacts: Gero Gringmuth

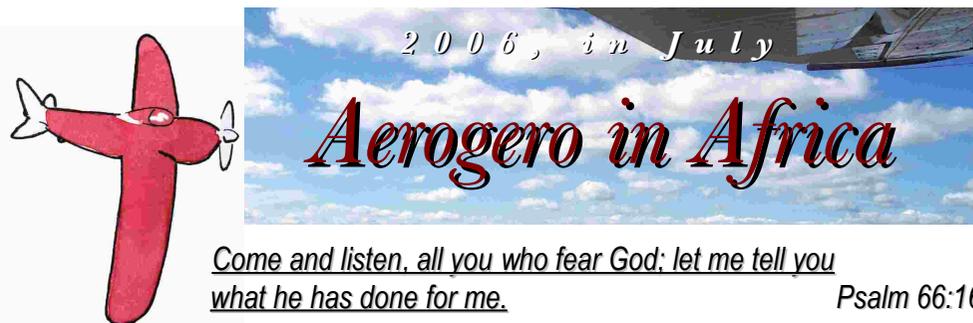
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*Saturday morning, the sun is shining,*

I'm lying in my hammock underneath our Mango-tree reading my E-mails (thanks to WLAN on our compound); so wonderful Africa can be!

But this is only one side, because I'm going through an intensive learning process which will carry on for some more months getting used to everything new here.

In May I had my *MAF-Check-Out*: as every airline MAF has certain procedures in order to make flying safe especially in ransom areas. There have been usual (and some unusual) emergency procedures, security announcements, dealing with passengers and so on. Because in the bush we are also petrol attendant, stewardess, load master, check-in-counter...

After having a three weeks basic *language course* in June it was nice to see to be really understood, 'kweli'! As many English words are used (mostly with an 'i' at the end) one is lucky trying them when looking for a suitable expression. Suaheli is a beautiful language and because I know it's essential for my daily flying I'm going on learning at home voluntarily. But as many other things are time consuming in the beginning, my days are often too short.

For instance there is *flying* (oh yes, indeed...):

There are no ICAO-flying maps available, so I had to draw them by myself: 350 airstrips, prohibited areas, reporting points, airspaces, routes etc.

At the same time I had a small kindergarten in my house as we have holidays. While I was drawing my map my young visitors were drawing pictures, tried jigsaws or I was teaching them the phonetic alphabet.

Here and there I'm on my way as a pilot as we have petrol again after a 4

months shortage! But unfortunately our customers are not used to it yet, therefore we don't fly much more than our monthly safaris and weekly shuttles. So I learned more about the operational side in our big Cessna Caravan as copilot for one week because it's the same procedures. During the so called *Haydom-Safari* we flew surgery teams from the Norwegian Lutheran mission hospital to 6 different villages and distributed nearly 5 tons of corn among the inhabitants due to the poor harvest. The flights took between 7 and 24 minutes, by car you would need days. Although the operating schedule was tight we arranged an emergency flight from Yaida to the hospital. As you see – safari in our aircraft has nothing to do with holidays!

Although we were on safari I did not miss the *FIFA world cup*: in the midst of African bush there was a TV inside a quonset hut. Paying 0,17 \$ 'entrance fee' I could watch the thriller Germany-Poland!

As a consequence of the poor harvest people are hanging out hoping to get a chance to earn some shillings everywhere in Dodoma. It reminds me of the fact how wealthy we are: many people have to go barefoot here and I own even some pair of shoes. It is helpful to become aware of that in order to stay grateful for small things.

Writing these lines I'm already back from the Mbeya safari I was flying from last Tuesday to Friday (July 18-21). Nurses do *Mother-Child-clinics* in different villages there – a kind of mobile mini-hospitals. Children are vaccinated, mothers get advice etc. - a very important service for the people.

From there I could take strawberries for the MAF-families into Dodoma – strawberries you can get only in the area around Mbeya. It's a bit like in the former GDR: everything is available somewhere but you have to know where. So it's helpful that our airline is flying all around the country.

After my first flying experiences the second part of the language lessons is lying ahead. I'm thinking about going to a language school somewhere outwards for having no distraction and learning with full concentration. I want my studies to be as effective as possible.



After my luggage arrived my 'hut' gets more and more comfortable. After coping with all the tasks in the beginning I'm happy to be here getting familiar with African life. As you can imagine you have to do much more by yourself in the kitchen. There are things which make sense for you to copy: for example my *open-air-yogurt-machine*. Simply warm up milk

to 105 °F (hand-hot), adding 1 spoon pure yogurt, leaving it in a plastic-bag (=greenhouse effect) in the sun for 6 hours, ready. You will be enthusiastic about it! For improving taste subsequent cooling is recommended.

If you can spare some time in summer come along for a *visit*! The climate in our 'winter' from June to September is easy for acclimatisation with temperatures of 85 ° during days and 60-65 °F during nights. And Tanzania is worth a journey not only because of my banana bread (or my yogurt)!



### Hello Kids,

if you want to have some details about banana plants please look up the websites below. The only problem is: those are German pages... but I am sure you will either be able to translate them or find respective English pages.

<http://www.bepepa.de/berni/Bananen-Pflanzen/ueberbananen.htm> or

<http://www.paltrur.de/seiten/Pflanzen/Banane.htm> .

This time we stick to flying: On my wing you can see a red 'thread'. Such thread the MAF-planes have also. What is it for? As antenna? Or in order to tie up the luggage? For the right answer you can get a tiger-figsaw!

Answers be sent to Gero, you will find the address on the last page.

Have fun!

Your Flying Tiger

### What else happens?

Recently I took part in a real African *wedding* when two of our African staff members married. This was really interesting and you can find some pictures on my website [www.aerogero.de](http://www.aerogero.de) at >Leinwand<.

So my web.de-*Photo page* is now available via this website link. You will find regular updates with Tanzanian photos also, thus check out now and then. On my website you find a translator (German-Kiswahili), too. It's great fun looking up words! -->English help: <http://www.yale.edu/swahili/>