



Bardai Brief

News from Mark & Andrea Hotchkin in Chad JUNE/JULY 2017

Greetings to you all from Bardai in Chad

Since we last wrote we have had some rain and even some water in the wadi this week, an amazing sight. Temperatures are not too high with lows of 25°C–30°C, which makes sleeping fine.

Supplies of fruit and veg are still variable, but Libyan water melons and grapes were nice the other day.

This week we were excited to finish most of the sorting in the hospital. We still need to stock take and sort a few instruments. We continue to be amazed by the amount of equipment. Since we last wrote a new area Health Director arrived and we were able to chat with him in English and he taught us some Teda (he is a pharmacist trained in Libya). All the senior staff then left for the fasting month of Ramadan so relationships will need to be built again when they return.

We have had a few difficult cases to look after, including our landlady, who sadly died after a long illness. On another evening 2 soldiers were killed and a 3rd died on the operating table. Another soldier was severely injured in a random shooting incident. Not easy for all concerned. Please pray for good relationships with the staff who find it hard here, as they are from the south, and we know at least 2 will be moved before we get back from England.

Teda language learning continues and we have made some progress, but still we have a long way to go. Pray we will use what we have and be willing to make mistakes.

We have been in our new house nearly a month and it has been fun getting to know the neighbours. They have been very friendly and we have received some food most nights during Ramadan. We have also been able to visit and chat with them and last week Andrea tried making Teda bread, putting the dough on the sides of an old oil drum oven - not as easy as it sounds. Pray the good relationships continue.

We also praise God the water pump and solar lights are working well.

The language centre is quiet for the moment due to the fast and school holidays. People go to Libya or the villages around for their holidays. Simon and Anya from Switzerland are now here with 2 children and Peter is short term working on the dictionary and other improvements in the language centre.

The church is having a hard time as the Pastor, who also works at the language centre, is away on his annual break and, sadly, one of the people killed in the shooting was a choir member. Also, last week, another choir member was killed in a car accident.

The end of Ramadan was a good chance to visit friends and neighbours and Mark spent 7 hours on Sunday visiting with the other male team members. Andrea also went to visit a young girl who is paralysed and bed-ridden, as well as visiting with Sheryl our team leaders' wife. Pray for all our visiting.

Our eldest daughter, Ruth, has finished her University year with good results and is about do a placement with Christians Against Poverty in Bradford for a month. Rebecca, our younger daughter, is excited to have a place in medical school at Kings College, London. She is just finishing her time in Ndjamena, Chad working with vulnerable women.

We return to England in 3 weeks time and value your prayers as we leave Bardai. We are pleased we can fly as Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) are now flying again.

Thanks, as always, for your financial and prayer support.

Mark & Andrea Hotchkin

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS:

- ✚ Praise God for rain and water in the Wadi, and for slightly lower temperatures.
- ✚ Praise God for melons and grapes 😊.
- ✚ Pray for the new area Health Director.
- ✚ Pray for Andrea and Mark's language skills and confidence to speak in the community.
- ✚ Pray for the family and friends of the soldiers and choir members who have died.
- ✚ Praise God for friendly and hospitable neighbours (and Teda bread) and pray that these relationships will continue.
- ✚ Praise God that the water pump, solar lights and internet are now working.
- ✚ Pray for visits and visitors:
 - Simon and Anya from Switzerland + 2 children;
 - Peter, working on the dictionary;
 - Mark and Andrea visiting locals for social time & pastoral care.
- ✚ Pray for the local church whilst the Pastor is away.
- ✚ Pray that the church Pastor has a fruitful & restful break.
- ✚ Pray for Ruth during the University break, particularly for her placement with CAP in Bradford.
- ✚ Praise God for Rebecca's place at Kings College, London and pray for her safe return to the UK as she prepares for University.
- ✚ Praise God for MAF flying again and pray for Mark and Andrea's safe travelling back to the UK. Pray that they have a fruitful and restful time.

