



**Bardai Brief**  
News from  
**Mark & Andrea Hotchkin**  
**JAN/FEB 2018**

Dear All

We praise God that this winter so far has apparently been warm. Certainly, we are still sleeping outside and although a little chilly at 5 degrees when we get up the inside room is warm at 18 or 19 degrees and we can close the door and keep it that way.

Last week, at church, we had 3 baptisms in a specially built concrete block basin. Despite some initial difficulties with waterproofing all went well and even the cold did not cause too much of a problem and a good celebration was had. Numbers were up and have remained so since, with many more women than before. So we are regularly just over 80 adults now. Praise God and pray especially for the 3 people who were baptised. Pray too for the EET church in Chad, the denomination under whose auspices we are in Bardai. There have been major disagreements amongst the churches recently but slowly now some reconciliation seems to be taking place. Please pray that this occurs.

Work is continuing well at the hospital and we are seeing a small but steady increase in outpatients but a few less inpatients and operations. This week Andrea was excited to deliver a baby for a lady who had had a still birth last time and despite high blood pressure and anaemia delivered safely. We were especially glad as she had chosen not to go to Libya. Let's hope it encourages others to deliver here. Mark also has 2 patients on TB treatment which he managed to get sent from Ndjamenana and Faya. This is a first for Bardai. There is still much to be done in educating the staff and improving the organisation of the hospital. Please pray for wisdom as we will await the hospital Directors return before tackling these issues.

Mark has a new language teacher he sees twice a week and a new name, 'KOUNDOGAI'. It means 'courageous /someone who doesn't stop or need a rest'. He was pleased to receive this when at a wedding meal. We, and especially Andrea, have had plenty of opportunity to visit people in their houses and celebrate or mourn with them. However our ability to communicate remains limited and we pray for time to study and enthusiasm to keep trying to speak the language.

Pray for Chad as there has been rioting in Ndjamenana and a march has been organised which has been banned by the government. It was precipitated by the price of petrol, but reflects a general discontent with the government. We too are to have a new Governor in our region after only a short time. Please pray for peace and wisdom for leaders here.

At the language centre, which is the original focus of our teams work, Andrea will now be helping at the women's film club on Fridays when we try to show films which encourage reflection about Teda culture and life. Children continue to come and study Tedaga and enjoy the colouring club too with Sheryl (An American missionary here with her husband Mark). 2 short videos have recently been made in the Tedaga language with Anya's help (a Swiss missionary here with Simon her husband). Ulrike (a German missionary) is back from Ndjamenana. She is our neighbour and works at the centre. Please pray that more people will come to the centre and enthusiasm for the Tedaga language and culture will continue.

Ruth and Rebecca are busy with studies and university life and Ruth has her dissertation to write this term, so please continue to hold them in your prayers for productive studies and a God filled social and church life.

With thanks for your prayers  
Andrea and Mark Hotchkin

### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- + Increase in births at the Hospital.**
- + All the medical interventions that occur within the hospital.**
- + Training at the Hospital for the staff.**
- + Progress in learning Tedaga**
- + The language centre, continued enthusiasm for learning the language and about the culture.**
- + All the groups that take place at the language centre.**
- + Ruth and Rebecca studying in England and that God blesses them as they witness to those they come into contact with.**
- + For EET church & reconciliation amongst all the churches**
- + Visits into local people's homes, for helping and witnessing.**
- + Pray for those who were baptized and the continued witness and worship within the church.**
- + Prayer for the stability of the country and government with riots in the capital, Njamena, planned.**
- + The various other missionaries that are working in the area, that their work may be fruitful for God.**

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