



Bardai Brief **News from** **Mark & Andrea Hotchkin** **MARCH 2018**

Dear All

The cold season has come to an end and its now around 32°C in the day and only down to 15°C at night, still quite pleasant although hot as we walk back from the hospital. Its making our spinach and radishes grow which is good and we have picked some. The vine has gone from nothing to a full bush in 3 weeks it's amazing. We are getting basic vegetables and fruit from Libya about once a week so supplies are fine. Please pray that this will continue.

We have been busy at the hospital with some very sick children who have all done well. One was very dehydrated with diarrhoea and left the hospital after only 6 hours of iv fluids. Through our neighbour the next day she was persuaded to come back. By then the baby was much worse and had to have fluids directly into the bone as no veins were to be found. (This may sound bizarre but is standard UK practice in an extreme emergency). The baby improved over 5 days, so we praise God and it has encouraged others to come as well. Since Andrea has started seeing all women there does appear to be an increase in numbers generally. Also Mark has been seeing more Teda men.

The Director, Abdel Kerim, arrived back from Ndjamena although he didn't bring more staff as was hoped. They will be arriving in the next few weeks and we are really hoping to start to make some significant changes in organisation and medical care soon. Some staff may leave for a break but we hope numbers will be up. Pray for wisdom as we make changes especially with the Teda ancillary staff.

The church is doing well with increased numbers. We sang one Sunday, as the community of missionaries, as each week a community sings in their local language. So we can sing in English. Please pray for the local Christians far away from their families.

Please pray for the political situation in Chad. There have been riots and protests as wages have been cut, taxes increased and loss of some bonuses/allowances for travel etc, due to lack of government funding from low oil prices. Things are quite unstable with strikes in government services although it seems work is resuming this week. Please pray for peace and government wisdom.

Our language helper is here so we have started lessons again, which is good. We continue visiting neighbours when we can. Andrea is still showing a Film each Friday at the centre and has around 6 or so young women who come. Please pray she will get to know them better.

Mark and Sheryl, who head up the team, are in the USA for 2 months. Please pray for us, Helen and Ulrika who will be here, the 3 of us being relatively new.

When they left on the same MAF flight Claire from Guinebor II, Reinate, a pilots wife who is a Radiographer and Onesime, a Chadian lab equipment technician, who we know from Guinebor days, who was trained by the French military in France, came up for a brief overnight stay to see how they can help the hospital. We had a very good visit. The hospital staff were happy to have them here and we were able to use the brief time well. A blood count machine was made functional but sadly the generator was too weak for the Xray machine. There will be more contact in the future so please pray for this.

So far no assistance has been forthcoming from the European Union or UNHCR after their visits. Keep praying as the generators limp on after a visit from a mechanic.

Both Ruth and Rebecca are busy with studies and getting good results. They saw each other and had fun in the snow with Andreas Mum a few weeks ago. Please pray for continued good studies and fun times too.

We are on a short break from regular work at the hospital this week. Please pray there will not be too many emergencies and we will be able to renew our energy and enthusiasm for the work. It can be challenging meeting everyone's needs both patients and staff

With thanks for your prayers and support

Andrea and Mark

PRAYER POINTS:

- + For continuing good supplies of vegetables from Libya.**
- + Pray for wisdom as changes are made in the hospital, especially with the Teda ancillary staff.**
- + Pray for Christians at the church who are far away from their families.**
- + Please pray for the political situation in Chad – for peace and Government wisdom.**
- + Pray for the women who come to film night for closer relationships with Andrea.**
- + Pray that whilst Mark and Sheryl are away (team leaders), the remaining team will do well.**
- + Pray for those who visited recently to help the hospital, and for future visits.**
- + Pray for a stronger generator to be provided to run the x-ray machine.**
- + Pray for help from the European Union and / or UNHCR.**
- + Pray for Ruth and Rebecca in their studies & leisure times.**
- + Pray for a restful week for both Mark and Andrea, for renewed energy and enthusiasm for the challenging work.**



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