



Bardai Brief

News from

Mark & Andrea Hotchkin in Chad

MAY 2018

Dear All

Last time we were at temperatures of 32° now most days we are at 39° in the shade. We put the thermometer in the sun on Sunday when it was hot - 43° in the shade, and it just said "High!" At least it didn't break. So it's quite draining at times. The plants think so too and are wilting daily. The vine still seems happy and the fig tree is producing small green fruit and we are waiting for them to ripen. Fruit and veg is variable, often coming when someone is celebrating a marriage. The solar fridge helps as we can keep things much longer. Yesterday someone brought lettuce across the Sahara and it survived!

The hospital is variably busy but on average we have about 30 patients a day and at least 3 hospitalised which, given the level of care offered by the nurses, keeps us busy. A few weeks ago we had a number of people shot in a bar. Violence is a common problem here. Last Friday we did our first Caesarean and it went well. However, sadly, the baby died as the family refused initially to go ahead. Can only think that the mother would have had to go to Libya if we hadn't been around. We are seeing increasing cases of Aids and now have the drugs to treat it which is good. Please pray for the lady who lost her baby and those with Aids and those injured by the shooting.

More staff have now arrived and in the large part are those who were here last year. Unfortunately, the staff who were here have left and another one who is sick so we are very short of nurses. This means that care is not always as it should be. We have started meetings to help us to organise care, nursing staff and ancillary staff. The latter are paid by the state but hold honorary jobs, i.e. they get paid but never come to work (I think it is usually the other way round). Currently Andrea also has an honorary cleaning contract and was seen washing the floor after performing the caesarean. It is not always easy, we really need prayer for a change of attitude and enthusiasm.

Pray too for Abdel Kerim, the Medical Director, as he is not in an easy position, trying to keep all sides happy.

Mark preached a sermon in church a few weeks ago and this week is the Annual General Meeting after the Communion Service at 7am.

Things are a little more stable politically in Chad but the parliament has just voted through a new constitution which abolishes the limitation on 2 terms of office. Idris Déby, the Chadian President, has actually already been in power since 1990. Chad has improved a lot in many ways with the oil boom but the opposition are not surprisingly against this, so we will see what reaction there is. Facebook and WhatsApp have been out of action for some time which gives a measure of the governments concern.

We continue with Tedaga lessons and make slow progress and also make regular visits when people have had fires in their houses or marriages or births. There are different phrases in Teda for each situation. Last week I learnt how to make Chadian porridge with a lot of peanut butter in it. We wanted to see how suitable it is as a weaning food.

Mark and Sheryl will be back soon and bring 2 new members of the team with them - Kurt and Hannah. They will be working at the Language centre to help develop the language programme.

We are benefiting from the work done by the visitors with the blood count machine which helps us to identify different diseases. Sadly, despite identifying a case of Leishmaniasis, a tropical disease transmitted by sandfly bites, even with Clare's help we were unable to get the drug here in time before the young boy died.

Rebecca has exams this month and Ruth her dissertation to write. Please pray for concentration and energy for both of them during this time.

With thanks for your prayers and support

Andrea and Mark

PRAYER POINTS:

- + For continuing good supplies of vegetables.**
- + Pray for wisdom and the management skills of the Medical Director.**
- + Pray for the Annual General Meeting.**
- + Please pray for the political situation in Chad – for peace and Government wisdom.**
- + Pray for the visits to local people's houses.**
- + Pray for the new people arriving, that they will settle in well and be a great asset to the work.**
- + Pray for Ruth and Rebecca in their studies, exams etc.**
- + Pray that Mark and Andrea and all the folk in Chad continue to work well, despite the rising temperatures.**
- + Pray for Mark and Andrea to continue to witness their faith to the locals in Chad.**



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