Andrea and Mark Hotchkin
Prayer Letter
December 2019

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Dear Friends

This time we write from Ndjamena where we have been for 3 weeks. The first week was spent having a rest and catching up on some administration by the river in a missionary retreat centre. It was good to relax and eat some different food, sausages and chicken. The next week was a missionary conference and again we were able to eat well and spend time with other missionaries from around Chad and have a daily bible teaching.

This week we have been busy organising drugs to take back to Bardai and trying to sort out the lack of nursing staff at the hospital with the ministry of health. Also we have become experts on how the supply system works. The hospital accountant has given us a budget of about £4000 and we have also got free drugs for the HIV and TB programs. After getting about half our needs from the National Pharmacy we have then got the rest from 3 other suppliers. So having collected half a tonne of drugs together, enough to fill 2 landcruisers, we now need to transport them to Bardai. Yesterday we heard that the MAF aeroplane that is flying us back to Bardai is undergoing essential maintenance and will not be ready for a week. Although we are anxious to get back this means we have time to recover from a flu like bug and complete all the orders for the hospital. We are waiting to see what will happen as some visitors to Bardai need to get back for their flights to Europe and if we don't get to fly by Saturday it will be after the Christmas break. Perhaps an overland trip will be needed. As you read this hopefully one way or another we may well be back home.

In Bardai as we have mentioned before we don't have a car so how do we get around when we arrive in Ndjamena? Well we have a choice, often we can borrow a mission landcruiser and drive ourselves, we can use a Taxi or even mini bus. We are fortunate that Dogo, who used to drive the girls to school, is available and it is good to meet again and re-establish friendships. Not only that though, it costs us about the same amount to pay the mileage costs on driving a borrowed car as it does to take his taxi. You can imagine the environmental difference in driving a Land cruiser around compared to Dogos’ taxi. He gets the money and the environment is helped it's win-win.

Dogo spends much of his time providing a taxi service at Guinebor and a few longer trips round town supplements his income helping to feed his family. It's not an easy life, so we also help with schooling costs for his son who goes to a local missionary run school near to Guinebor. Recently Ruth and Rebecca starting paying the costs of two more of Dogo's children, it's not expensive and seems right that they can help out after all the hours he spent driving them back and forth to school. One of them is a little girl it is really good to see that he is treating all his children the same.
As well as catching up with Dogo we have had our friends Odette and Rebecca round to cook some delicious Chadian food and help with the cleaning and drying of meat and vegetables to go back to Bardai in our new rather large drier. This while we spent hours going back and forth to the ministry and the government pharmacies. Today they were telling us about how this year there has been so much malaria around due to the prolonged rains. It wasn’t easy to hear them tell of how it’s too expensive to go to the hospital so they just buy a few drugs from the market and do their best. Unsurprisingly it seems as though this approach has led to the wrong drugs and the wrong doses being taken. There is a long way to go before the health system here provides the level of care needed.

We were excited to receive some Christmas cards and presents the other day and as Christmas approaches we think of Marks Mum and Dad celebrating Christmas in a new home with very different surroundings, Ruth busy preparing for Christmas at Lee Abbey having had a visit to family in late November and Rebecca is in London celebrating with her church and preparing for an important exam in early January.

Pray for

Safe and quick return to Bardai
Transport of the drugs by plane or road
People of Chad like Dogo, Rebecca and Odette living a difficult existence.
Ruth and Rebecca in England over Christmas

Praise for

Time of rest in Ndjamen
Good times catching up with our missionary friends
Funds from the hospital for all the drugs we needed and being able to find them in Ndjamen.

At this time when we have plenty and celebrate Christ’s birth, remember the many people of Chad who struggle to survive from day to day and may God show you anew the reality of his greatest gift in Jesus.

Andrea and Mark.

If you would like to support Andrea and Mark Hotchkin by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.