

Claire Bedford

Prayer Letter

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Greetings from a much greener Chad! The rains have come, the dust has transformed into grass and the weather is slightly cooler overall despite the increased humidity. The picture shows the area outside my house just after a heavy rain a few weeks ago.

In the current worldwide circumstances, I can't go on without giving an update on covid-19 here in Chad. When I last wrote a letter, the numbers here were hiking up quickly and the virus starting to spread around the country. Thank you so much for praying! I am so relieved to report that the numbers didn't continue to rise rapidly and that they've tailed off a lot. Such an answer to prayer! The country wouldn't have coped with a mass covid infection and it's a real blessing that the numbers stayed relatively low. Who knows why! I have a few theories but they're just that, really. Nothing factual.

Despite the rain which turns the road to Guinebor into a puddled-filled muddy slalom, the hospital is still busy which is good on many levels. The challenge now is the increasing numbers of malaria cases. Malaria is an annual challenge and in all reality will hit the Chadian population far harder than covid-19 seems to have.

Avid readers of my prayer letters will remember that back in February, before covid-19 became a pandemic and shut the world down, we had a week-long visit from a BMS film team. During lockdown in the UK, they've been busy going through the thousands of photos and hours of film that they took and very soon this year's BMS harvest appeal 'Operation: Chad' will be released and ready to view! Check out this page on the BMS website for all the Operation: Chad resources that they've produced and get more of an idea of the work we get up to here!

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/appeal/operation-chad/>



I wrote in my last letter about the fire just outside my house. After a wait of 5 weeks, I was able to have new solar equipment installed and have a fridge again! I'm very grateful that the fire wasn't any worse and that (eventually) we were able to source new equipment. The picture shows the technicians doing the installation.

At the start of July I was out of action for a few days with three different illness that come one after the other. I'm usually very healthy here and I'm not a very patient patient so this was a challenging time for me! I'm grateful to have access to good healthcare at the local hospital (I live on site at Guinebor!) and for my colleagues and neighbours here who helped me out lots. I'm pleased to report that I'm back to full health again now.



A few weeks ago, I was in the pharmacy and a young guy Isaac* came up and asked me something in Arabic about a book (my Arabic is still pretty limited unfortunately). I sensed he was talking about a Bible, but I asked one of my Chadian pharmacy colleagues to translate what he was saying. He said his child was on the paediatric ward and that he'd been reading the book in the holder on the wall by the bed and he'd like a copy of his own to take home. I said he could take the very copy he'd been reading and accompanied him to the ward. He showed me what he'd been reading, and it was a New Testament in Chadian Arabic. He was really happy to take it with him and walked off with it under his arm! More and more people here seem to have a real thirst for Truth. However it can sometimes be dangerous for people to be seen reading the Bible or having anything to do with the Christian faith.

Praise and prayer points

Praise points:

- For the rain and slightly cooler temperature
- That covid-19 hasn't seemed to hit Chad too hard
- That my solar equipment has been replaced, enabling me to have a fridge again
- For the care I was able to receive at my house when I was ill

Prayer points:

- Safety for patients and staff as they travel to the hospital during rainy season
- Ongoing good health for me and the rest of the hospital staff
- For Isaac* as he reads the New Testament in Chadian Arabic, that God would open his eyes to the Truth

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, they really do make a difference.

God bless

Claire

*not his real name

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



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