

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

February 2022



www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers

Thank you for your continued support – we appreciate every prayer, encouragement, and message we receive. We know that individuals and churches are regularly praying for us – this was evidenced when a friend near home joined an online church service new to them in a different area of the country recently and was surprised to hear them praying for us! It makes being part of God's family very real, even while we are so far away from some of you.

The pace and the weather are 'hotting up' again at the hospital. Brian has found the emergency department very busy, even needing to make decisions about who can use the bed – the young girl in lots of pain, or the older lady who is laying on the floor? The department has received lots of very ill patients recently, who need to stay in the department for a longer time until they can go to the ward, because the ratio of staff is lower on the ward so they can't receive such close supervision.

Following the successful use of the 'coke bottle' spacers for asthma inhalers, Brian has found and restored (with the help of Eric, a mission worker here who is good at fixing everything!) a nebuliser through which the drugs can be given via a mask, and be even more effective. Unfortunately, we found that the salbutamol medication is not available via the system we had hoped, though Claire (BMS pharmacist) is still trying to source it.

As well as day to day vaccinations and care of the malnourished children, Jackie, (together with Mel and Bethan) has completed the health needs assessment and the subsequent data analysis and report writing. We have some clear messages from the community about their health and their difficulties to compare with existing hospital and national data. We are just starting to think about what we can improve or put in place that can meet some of these whilst at the same time being sustainable in the future.

We do try to spend quality time with our Guinebor 2 'family' here on the compound – we organised an early 'pancake day', explaining and demonstrating the traditions of pancake tossing and racing to our non-UK friends, as well as debating the best topping (which seems to fall back to lemon and sugar every time).

We are very much looking forward to our home assignment which seems to be rapidly approaching - we hope to be in the UK from the end of April until early July. It will be exciting to see familiar faces and places and also to meet and visit new ones! We are also looking forward to seeing family & friends and are especially hoping that with many UK Covid restrictions lifted we can meet our children, parents and siblings more easily than when we were last in the UK.



Jackie has helped to write and implement a new safeguarding policy for the hospital and undertake subsequent training sessions along with BMS colleague Gareth. This is very challenging in a country which lacks infrastructure in terms of referral processes, and for who, like some other low- and middle-income countries, 'safeguarding' is a new concept. Earlier this week Jackie undertook a little more training for the senior nurses who will be the 'designated officers' for the hospital and was encouraged by the understanding and way of thinking they have developed, considering that in the autumn this was completely new for them.

There is still lots of work to do to 'normalise' the idea of safeguarding and disseminate the messages throughout the hospital.

Newsflash... Just as we finished writing this we have heard that it is likely that several centres will be opening up in the capital N'Djamena, which is about half an hour's drive from here, that can support victims of gender based violence and perhaps children who have been abused – we are waiting to hear official announcements about this, but it could be such a huge step forward for vulnerable women and children.



Last weekend Jackie was visiting Chadian friends with a colleague and found one of them to be very unwell. They bought her to the hospital in the car (her first experience of trying to drive at a reasonable pace across the sand and ungraded roads whilst being acutely aware of every bump for someone who is in acute pain in the back of the car). But the most challenging part of the experience was being 'on the 'other side' of the care. At any health facility in Chad

care is paid for as needed – you first pay for the attendance, then any urgent drugs you need, maybe drugs for discharge or the continued hospitalisation fee. At Guinebor 2 hospital these fees are as minimal as possible to keep the hospital functional and ensure staff can be paid. But that said it was really humbling to see first-hand how after just an hour or two the cost of the visits to the cashier and the pharmacy added up to what is probably several days wages for many people, and this is money they often don't have to hand. Thanks to BMS and other partners who subsidise services such as maternity and malnutrition, costs are reduced for some of the most vulnerable. Your giving to BMS not only supports us but directly subsidises poor patients in need of desperate help.

Please continue to pray for stamina and good health, as the very hot weather is almost upon us again. We find that things that would normally be easy to manage like a heavy cold take more out of us physically and mentally, especially post-covid for Brian.

Please pray that we would be able to obtain the salbutamol medication we need for the asthmatic patients who are seen in the emergency department.

Please pray for a smooth run up to home assignment, that we would be able to leave good systems and processes in place in a way that can be managed in our respective departments.

Please pray for the country of Chad where so many people have so little, and pray that these centres for vulnerable women and children will open as planned.

We are thankful that we can "encourage and build up one another" (1 Thess 5 v 11). To encourage 'gives courage' and that is much needed sometimes! Though we often say it, your support to BMS, and to us as individuals really does make a difference, so thank you for the e mails, messages and even just the social media 'likes'. Each one give us that little bit more courage just when we need it.

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

