

# Brian and Jackie Chilvers

February 2023



[www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers)

In Chad it seems very common to say 'Bonne Année' or Happy New Year if you haven't yet seen someone since the start of the new year, even if it is the end of February. Although we feel well into 2023 someone said this to us yesterday, so we thought its not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year at the start of our newsletter!

Thank you to those who prayed for Baby T and Baby M last month, and to those of you who have requested an update. Sadly, Baby T died very shortly after our last newsletter was sent. The love that the team at Guinebor had for the baby and his family was clear by the level of grief we all felt, it was a hard and dark moment. We hope that we were able to communicate our care to the family when we visited them as is cultural after a bereavement. Please do pray for them as they grieve this tragic loss of a baby, that like so many may not have happened in the UK.

Baby M is doing very well – mum expresses all the breast milk that the baby needs, which is something not commonly done here, and as a result the baby continues to gain weight and develop well, with plump cheeks and lots of smiles for us! Surgery is a while away yet as she needs to gain almost 3 kg for the surgery to take place, so please pray for her mum to have continued encouragement, and for continued good progress and protection for Baby M.

We were grateful to be able have a short break in Kenya earlier this month. Our daughter flew out to join us and it was wonderful to just enjoy the beach together for a few days. Just as we were feeling like the holiday was a long time ago, as usually happens on return to work, we received news of our daughters' engagement to her boyfriend. It was wonderful to receive such lovely news and it definitely revived our spirits again.

January was a busy month, we had lots of visitors from partner organisations (including BMS) for the annual board and partners meeting. Jackie really enjoyed showing one of our visitors around the village of Guinebor, to help them understand the situations of the local community more, and it was a good opportunity to take some photos of the village.



We recently read on a local news website that there were more than 9,000 people killed last year due to road traffic accidents in Chad. A quick bit of internet searching showed that there are about 1,608 deaths on the roads in the UK in 2021. This means about 24 deaths per 100,000 people in Chad, compared to about 3 per 100,000 in the UK. Brian sees many people brought to the accident department following road traffic accidents. The biggest differences between Chad and the UK are the delay in getting to hospital (there is no ambulance service to call) and people often don't present for days or weeks. The treatment is more limited – especially for problems such as severe head injuries. Also the majority of traffic is mopeds, the majority ride without helmets and there is no requirement for demonstrating knowledge of the rules of the road. Our Christian colleagues here pray regularly for safety on the roads getting to and from work, and with good reason.



Last Sunday we were invited to church with a Chadian nurse colleague. We left very early after a bowl of cornflakes (as we learnt for ourselves how long the journey is that he makes to the hospital every day; it took us about an hour with little traffic). We arrived at his house and were generously given some fish and rice to eat, then off to church for the first (7.30 am) service. Thankfully, Brian had been warned that missionary visitors always have to preach, so he had prepared a short message in French. Then we met some missionary friends who had been invited to the second service. We were given chicken and bread to eat. After the second service we were given more chicken and some rice to eat. Following this we were invited to eat 'sauce longe', a local delicacy at another home...and following that some chicken and boule back at our friend's house. We finally left about 4pm in the afternoon, exhausted and very full after 6 meals! Most of the people we met had been affected by the flooding earlier this year, they showed us the water level on the walls of the church and their homes, several feet high. Yet the same people were literally dancing their way round the church in order to praise God and put their offering in the box. We were

humbled to meet some lovely people, faithful and hardworking Christians and were given lots of honour which we felt we did not deserve, but their generosity and hospitality was appreciated nonetheless.

Please continue to pray for the country of Chad, that it would remain stable and can develop in areas such as health, education, and road safety.

Please pray for our stamina as hot season is fast approaching.

Our Home Assignment commences in May. Once our home assignment is complete, we will be remaining in the UK. Please pray for our final few months here, that we would be able finish some teaching that we have started and leave our projects in a strong place.

Romans 12:21 says "...Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality".

Reflecting on how this was demonstrated to us at church is very challenging - can we also say we demonstrate this love, joy, hope and patience as we have seen and received it?

In ending, we want to thank you for your love for us, and especially for the people of Chad in praying for and supporting those at Guinebor 2 Hospital.

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



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