

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

Home Assignment Reflections

June 2022



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Since our last newsletter we are thankful to have arrived in the UK as planned, and were so pleased to be able to visit lots of churches as well as see a bit of our family and friends. As we write this our time in the UK is coming to an end, we have travelled from Scotland to the south coast and it has been great to meet people who have been supporting us and praying for us, who previously we have only known by email!

Speaking about the work at Guinebor so much has caused us to be very reflective, and think about the many questions we were asked. There were several questions that came up each time, which wasn't a surprise, but one of the 'FAQs' was "Are you enjoying Chad?".

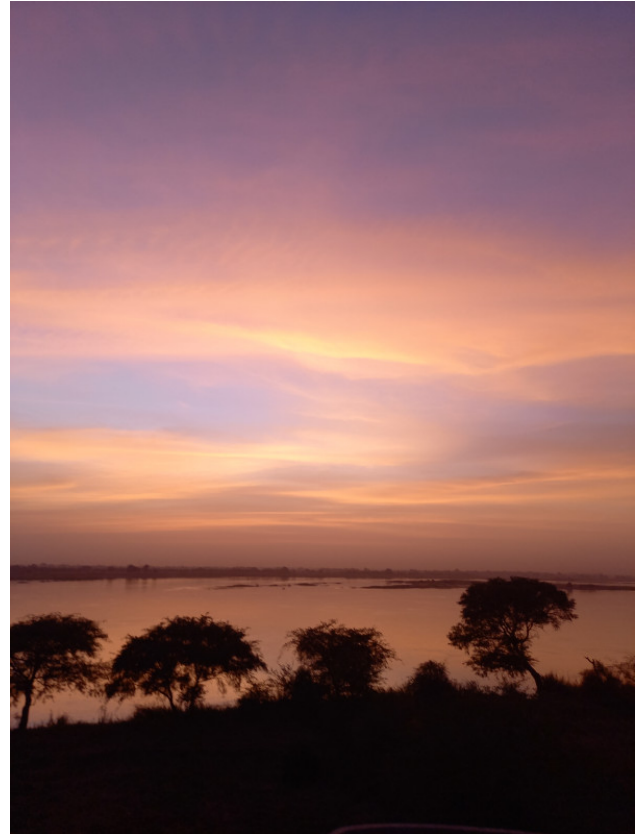
In all honesty this was a really hard question for us to answer.

Our heads were screaming "Well it's hot, dry and dusty, people around you have so very little and we see way too much sickness and death. Equipment and medicines are hard to come by, and so often we know that in the UK people would have a very different outcome". Then came the temptation to smile and nod...

So having reflected and thought it through here is our attempt to answer the question!

Just to be sure, we checked out the definition of 'enjoy', and of course it most commonly means to 'take delight or pleasure' in something. So we asked ourselves how we can we take delight or pleasure in the inequality and injustice that we see daily?

As you may have heard us say, there are of course things we do 'enjoy' in Chad - the beautiful sunsets at the retreat, any opportunity to have tea and cake with our friends, and the occasional trip to the swimming pool. But these alone don't feel like enough to say "yes".



Then we found another definition 'To enjoy yourself is to feel happy because of doing or experiencing something, or because of an event or situation'. Well we definitely feel happy when something goes well - like the story of little Ali, who did so well after he came to the hospital with pneumonia and malnutrition. Or when the eye clinic that we talked about in our last newsletter came to fruition after the process of organising the system and training the nurse - those who received their glasses had great smiles and were proudly showing them off.



But having reflected on all that, we think that sometimes 'finding joy' happens more than 'enjoying'. Of course our joy comes firstly from our own salvation and knowing the love of God. We also find joy in obedience - like the Psalmist we can say 'I find happiness in obeying your commands' (Psalm 119 v 56), knowing that we are a small part of helping Chadian people find abundant life both here on earth and for eternity. We hope that one

day we can together be filled with joy in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 16 v 11). Getting up in the mornings when you know the day will be tough (whatever you do or wherever you are in the world) isn't always easy or enjoyable, but for us, knowing that we are trying to do what God requires of us in our lives to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly' (which right now happens to be in Chad) is where we find joy and strength.

We are so thankful that we have stayed safe and healthy during all our travels, meetings and church services around the UK.

We would value your prayers for smooth travels back to Chad and also that we would readjust to life and the climate in Chad quickly.

We hope to continue to make progress in the work which is ongoing in our absence and also to quickly reconnect with our Chadian friends and colleagues.

Thank you to you all for your continued support and prayers, to those who we were able to meet in person and to those we have still to meet or reconnect with. Somebody recently described this as 'cheering us on from the sidelines'. We loved this analogy, as the support we receive truly encourages us and helps us to find joy in our lives.

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.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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