

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

No Room at the Inn!

December 2022



www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers

As we write this we are very nearly at the end of 2022! Thank you to all those who have sent Christmas greetings and messages. We hope that you all found some peace and joy this Christmas remembering the birth of Jesus as well as enjoying the festivities.

The emergency department has continued to be busy. Brian appreciated the support of an A & E doctor from Denmark who joined us for a few weeks in November and December. She was a lot of fun as well as being able to support and teach us all. Pictured is Brian and one of our colleagues demonstrating the ABCDE of emergency assessment while Dr Catrin explained what was happening.

Dr Catrin was very much missed in the run up to Christmas – there were so many patients in the department that the only available space was the floor. One child came in accompanied by her mother and father, she had malaria and was malnourished. As she was being assessed and treated her father became ill and had to lay on the floor beside her bed. He also tested positive for malaria - he did not need hospitalisation but was grateful to be in the right place at the right time. As the children's ward was so busy, we had to wait for a discharge to take place before she could leave the department the next morning. At the same time there was another lady waiting for a bed overnight - you can probably imagine that the phrase 'no room at the inn' was in constantly in use for a couple of days!



On Christmas Eve we were able to join our friends at The Fellowship (an international group of Christians in Ndjamena) for a carol service. Last year we had tried to attend but the roads were blocked, so we were happy that we made it into town this year, and we could sing carols by candlelight and share in the joy of Jesus' birth together. On Christmas Day we shared breakfast with our friends across the compound, then shared lunch (which included spit roast goat, a first for us!) with even more people, then had dessert with even more coming along! Between us we had some traditional British foods including frozen peas, mince pies and Christmas pudding, which were all a real treat. The one disappointment was the rare appearance of clouds in the sky in December on the exact day that Jackie was going to use the solar oven for a fruit cake – well that will just have to wait until New Year now.

The Christmas season in Chad is short (just the 25th as a day off) and business generally carries on as usual here in the hospital. Just like in the UK when people feel better, they often stop attending outpatients or stop taking medication even if that's not been recommended. So we are really happy when we see children who are regularly brought to clinic to monitor their progress after being admitted with malnutrition. Pictured below is Moussa* who made has now made over 35 visits to us! You can see that he has grown and developed well and is a bright and attentive little boy who isn't sitting still for long now!

(*name changed)



The cases of severe malaria have remained high compared to last year despite the reduction of water in the area. The weather is now much cooler, the mornings are about 15 degrees. The local belief is that colder weather reduces the incidence of malaria, so people do not continue sleep under nets and stay outside later in the evenings. Sadly, there are still areas of standing water, as well as lots of water filled containers dumped as rubbish which attract the mosquitos and therefore continue to spread the disease.

This month we have a very specific prayer request – we have recently had two babies born at Guinebor 2 hospital with a cleft palette. There is a surgeon who visits every so often and can perform the necessary surgery. However, it is hard for these babies to gain weight due to the difficulty feeding, and lack of specialist feeding equipment. They both need to gain lots of weight in order to be well enough for surgery – so please pray for Baby T and Baby M. Baby T has lost the weight he already gained due to illness and this week is back in hospital. Baby M is coming 3 times per week for assessment. We pray that as we support them so closely they will progress well, and that the families would seek to know more about Jesus' love for them.

Thank you all for your continuing prayers and support. We pray that whatever 2023 brings you would know God's blessings in your lives, homes and churches.

Jackie and Brian

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.



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