

Monday 6th April

Chad **Pop: 16 million** **Muslim: 57%**

Chad is a country with 16 million people made up of 200 different tribes speaking 120 different languages and dialects. Their country is divided into three physical regions; the desert to the north, the dry Sahel region in the middle and the more fertile savannah zone in the south. The north is occupied by Muslims, while the south is mainly occupied by Christians and animists.



Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world and has suffered from decades of war, famine and epidemics. It has also suffered from droughts and floods. The impact of these has been magnified since the country does not have the resources to combat them.

Last August, a state of emergency was declared in the north and east of the country, after more than 50 people were killed in fighting in the area of Sila. Tensions between indigenous settled African farmers and nomadic Arab herders which have simmered for years erupted into deadly clashes. The disputes are often over access to grazing land or trampled crops. President Idriss Deby blamed the surge in violence partly on an influx of guns to Chad from conflict zones in neighbouring Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan. Chad closed its border with Sudan and Libya and carried out a disarmament operation. Human rights experts had voiced concern that the state of emergency gave unlimited powers to the security forces and could lead to abuses. Read Abdalla's story on Wednesday to find out more. The state of emergency was lifted in January this year.

Chad has more unreached people living within its borders than any other African country. The Joshua Project lists 77, of which 31 are unengaged as well as being unreached according to Finishing the Task. Chad is one of the few Muslim nations that welcome workers and many Muslims are craving the Good News. Praise God, many unreached people are hearing the gospel for the first time as a result of both indigenous and expatriate outreach efforts.

A Frontiers colleague visited the capital city of Chad and shared some video footage. As you watch the clip, pray as you are led: <https://vimeo.com/395618607>

- Pray for Chad to find resources that will raise the level of wealth and provide jobs for many, including for the better educated so they stay and help develop their country.
- Pray for God's mercy and blessing upon this nation, bringing peace and a good standard of living for all.
- Pray for efforts to reach every one of Chad's unreached and unengaged people groups with the gospel of peace.
- Pray for angelic protection over the borders of this nation.

Source of some material: <https://prayercast.com/chad.html>

Tuesday 7th April

Abdalla's story

This is Abdalla's story as reported by a worker in the country.

Abdalla is like most men. Five years ago, he ventured north into the desert. He went to find gold. A fruitless search as it turned out. Allah did not will it. The desert nearly killed him. He ended up in a Libyan factory on the far side of the Sahara.



Good pay but so far away from home. This was not what he had hoped. But he earned enough to get back home. And some extra for the homecoming. Enough to disguise his failure. Enough to stem the questions.

Abdalla had nine children when he left. Now he has seven. Here wives suffer most when men leave. At least Abdalla wasn't there to see it. Anyway, does it still count as suffering if it's so normal? Men will travel as surely as the sun

rises. And wives and children must bring in the harvest alone. Life lived in the balance: one bad harvest away from destitution.

Abdalla finally returned last year. His wives are now both pregnant. Each day Abdalla drank tea under the neem tree. There was nothing else to do. His earlier yearning to be home was overtaken by his longing to leave. Maybe this time he'd find gold? Mouths must be fed somehow. He couldn't stay here with his fortune unsought. Like every man, the next trip was but one fateful moment away, when frustration collides with opportunity and like migrating birds they take flight.

But Abdalla did not travel. Was it inertia? Or was it the fighting? The fighting was worse than before. The camels were bolder. So were their herders. Whole fields destroyed in a single night of feasting. Whole families destroyed in a single day of fighting. But what could they do? Nomads had guns and they had none.

The government stepped in: a state of emergency. They sent in the army. The world celebrated: peace at last. But the soldiers were worse than the nomads. They went from village to village 'protecting' the land. The stories were the same: villages held to ransom until they handed over weapons. Sometimes it got violent and it always got expensive. Squeezing out money like oil from a peanut. Abdalla dreaded the day they would come.

Tomorrow you can read what happened on the day the soldiers arrived.

- Pray for Abdalla and millions like him who have no hope, no purpose, just disillusion and fear, that they will find their purpose in a relationship with Jesus Christ.
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer 29:11
- Pray for women who have such hard lives too, as they try to eke out an existence, feed their families, living hand to mouth with no certainty of the future.

- Pray for grieving families, who have lost so much, destroyed by the whim and cruelty of their fellow men, that the God of all comfort would be made known to them.

Wednesday 8th April

Abdalla's story (continued from yesterday)

The soldiers arrived early. They beat up the first person they saw. They rounded up the rest. "You're in big trouble" they said. "You've been fighting" they said. And now the army had come to confiscate the guns. What guns? All the guns were two months' south by now, slung low across those men on camelback. Left behind were only the bullets, embedded in flesh and memory. Abdalla was desperate. Soldiers were capable of worse than the nomads. The village would be punished until weapons were found. But there were no weapons to give.

There was only one solution: Abdalla and his friends loaded the millet harvest onto a donkey's back. They went and sold their grain at the market. They then crossed into Darfur in Sudan with money in hand. Two nights later they returned, with three old Kalashnikovs. Darfur's finest. They hoped it would satisfy.

The soldiers returned. The men ceremoniously and repentantly lay the guns at the soldiers' feet. Appeasement. "Where are the others?" they asked. "We have no others." "What did you do with them?" they asked. "This is all we have." Swiftly, too swiftly, the soldiers upped and left. No more words were spoken. No one knows what will happen next. A true state of emergency.

- Pray for Chadians who have so little and have suffered so much. God knows each one of them personally and completely:

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows"
Matthew 10:28–31

- Let's ask that they will come to know the One who knows every hair on their head.

Thursday 9th April

The Makanese

Pop: 1 million

Muslim: 99.9%

"A great door for effective work has opened to us." 1 Cor 16:9

The Makanese is not the real name of the people group we are praying for today. We are referring to them as such to protect our workers in this country.

The Makanese are an unreached people group who mainly live in Eastern Chad, in one of the most inaccessible places on earth. They are one of the largest tribes in this region. They are almost all Muslim with few if any followers of Jesus. Their homeland is split between Eastern Chad and Western Sudan. They suffered greatly in the Darfur War in Sudan (2003 onwards), when they were scattered to many countries around the world, both nearby as well as in Europe and North America. There are 150,000 Sudanese Makanese refugees in Eastern Chad, living in camps alongside the indigenous Chadian Makanese in towns and villages. Almost all are incredibly poor.

The Makanese have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ and there has never been a Makanese church or a Bible in their language. It has been very exciting to hear that earlier last year, a few seekers began studying the Bible regularly and some wanted to be baptised! Nevertheless, more workers are needed to reach them who understand the language and culture. Those wanting to reach the Makanese will need to learn: first French (the administrative language), then Arabic (for trade) and finally Makanese (the local language). They will also need to have experience in being able to meet their needs for water, health and education. This will not only bless them, but is foundational to reaching them and building relationships based on trust.

- Let's pray for what we hope is the beginning of a mighty move of God to bring His Kingdom and transformation to the Makanese.
- Pray for God to be at work in their hearts and to heal their spiritual blindness.
- Pray for those who labour to reach the Makanese, that they will have favour, open doors and protection as they seek to present Christ to those they live and work amongst and who they have come to love with the love of Christ.
- Pray for workers there, to stand strong and endure for the sake of the gospel in the years ahead and for the coming harvest.

Friday 10th April

Borkou region and the Teda people

This region and those living there have been named as a priority by Frontiers this year.

Borkou is located in the Sahara Desert in the north of Chad. This is where the Teda live, an unreached people group numbering 85,000 according to the Joshua project. The Teda are virtually all Muslim. The majority can be found in the Tibesti Mountains on the Libyan-Chad border. Their harsh environment, extreme poverty and remote location make them a very tough people, who have often had violent clashes with the neighbouring tribes.

Most Teda are herdsman. Livestock is the main source of wealth in Teda society. About one third are nomads; the rest are semi-nomadic. Camels and goats are the most common animals kept. The men are responsible for herding the camels, as well as for hunting and trading. Women tend to the goats and till the soil, but most farm work is done by slaves.

The Teda live in camps that consist of extended family members. The oldest man in the family has authority until his death. Marriages involve the payment of a substantial bride-price, which consists



of livestock. Most Teda communities have only a few hundred inhabitants. The more settled groups who live in the villages are not there for the whole year. They move from place to place for eight or nine months, returning to their villages during the rainy season.

Generally, they live in round huts with stone or mud walls. The huts have cone-shaped thatch roofs supported by a central post. The nomadic Teda often live in rectangular or oval-shaped tents

that have wooden frames and mats made of palm leaves or animal skins. Sometimes, they use caves for shelter while looking for pasture.

Rough sports and violence are a regular part of life among the Teda. Although the man is usually the family leader, the wife may beat him if he challenges her authority in certain matters. Women usually carry daggers and the men do not interfere in a fight between two women.

- Pray that the people of the Borkou Region will recognise and respond to God's grace and love for them. Pray that they will decide to follow the Prince of Peace and end their violent ways.
- Ask the Lord to send workers to join the few believers who are already witnessing to them about Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favour to those focusing on the Borkou Region.
- Instead of wives respecting their husbands and husbands loving their wives, there is a war of wills. Violence is commonplace and submission is based on fear and intimidation. Pray for those who go to them to show them the ways of the Creator.

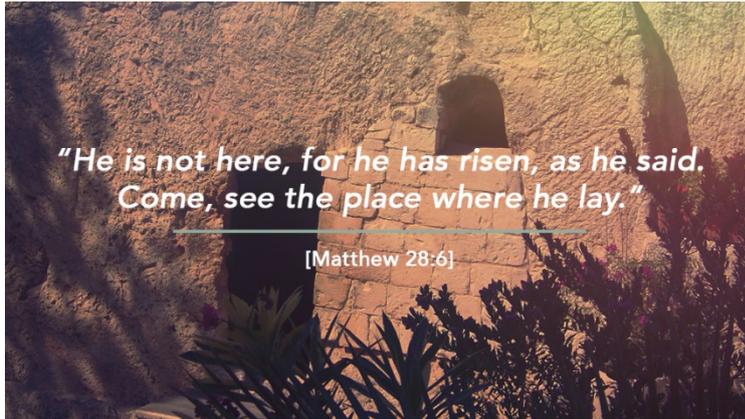
Source: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15316/CD

Saturday 11th April

Happy Easter

As we celebrate Easter, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your faithfulness in praying for the Muslim world.

Because of your prayers, new teams of workers are being sent to the hardest places in the Muslim world, where there has been little or no gospel witness. Today there are record numbers of Frontiers workers on the field, inviting Muslims to believe in Jesus as our resurrected Lord and Saviour.



Through your prayers, there are brothers and sisters from Muslim communities who have responded to the Good News and said yes to following Christ. Today, more Muslims are coming to faith than in any previous time and believers from Muslim backgrounds are lifting their voices saying, "Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed."

As followers of Christ, we too have every reason to celebrate this day. Because of the cross and the resurrection, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39)!

Let's expect great things from God, the One who gave His beloved Son to deliver a final blow to the curse of death. Together, we pray for a great harvest of souls in the years ahead and believe that praise to God will be on the lips of millions of Muslims everywhere.

- We pray a blessing over you and your life and pray that this Easter you would know the Father's infinite and special love for you, his beloved.
- Sometimes our workers are lonely and sometimes they are discouraged. Pray for them today, that they might have Easter faith to remember God has been good. We have victories to celebrate as we hear of Muslims coming to faith in Jesus.
- Let's thank God for all He is doing as we partner with Him in prayer, believing there is a rich harvest ahead and that we will have much to praise and thank God for next Easter.