

Monday 1st April

Eastern Chad

Eastern Chad has a large number of Muslim Unreached People Groups (UPGs). There are seven to eight spanning the border with Sudan and another twenty to thirty in the region. In eastern Chad, believers can reach the tribes that span the border into Sudan. Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) and maturing church leaders from Darfur, who have come to Christ in Sudan, now come across the



border to Chad where they are trained, resourced, disciplined and equipped by believers there. When they return to Darfur, they see much fruit, as hundreds of Muslims come to faith.

We have heard from a contact in Chad who said he has been praying for the last year for a tribe on the border to come to faith. Recently, he went to a café where he met a man from this tribe, who told him he had recently become a believer and so had his brother!

In Eastern Chad lies the strategic city of Abeche, where 200,000 Muslims, Christians and MBBs live. However there are large strategic towns around it, with many unreached Muslims and with far fewer Christians and MBBs. The towns are: Biltine in the north, Goz Beida in the south, Adre in the east and Oum Hadjer in the west.

Each town has large UPGs with no one witnessing to them. There is a real need for believers to move to these towns. These groups include the Surbakol and Mimi whom we prayed for last week

and the Daju and Mararit whom we will pray for later this week.

- Praise God for the spread of the gospel in eastern Chad and across its borders. We ask that this will continue unhindered and will continue to produce much fruit for the Kingdom of God.
- Let's pray for believers to move to the strategic towns of Biltine, Goz Beida, Adre and Oum Hadjer and for a multiplication in the number of MBBs as they hear the Word of life and hope.
- Let's ask God to protect and multiply the effectiveness of workers as they resource and equip others.

Tuesday 2nd April

Field workers in Chad

We read last week, how in the last ten years there has been a large influx of foreign field workers. The government is allowing them to enter Chad and to witness to Muslim tribes. Sadly, such workers do not usually stay long-term, but leave after four to five years. This is usually because of the many great challenges they face.

These challenges include:

1. Sickness

2. Harsh physical conditions

Chad is a country of extreme heat and living conditions are very basic.

3. The pressures of language-learning

Workers living in Chad need Chadian Arabic which is the trade language used across Chad and which is used by most Muslims. They also need to learn the local or tribal language of the Muslim people group they are trying to reach. These languages are incredibly difficult to learn and take a lot of time and effort. But having a deep insight into the languages and culture is critical to having a fruitful ministry and to reaching the Muslim community.

4. A lack of good education for workers' children

5. Discouragement

Muslim tribes are very tight-knit and there is great persecution for those who choose to follow Jesus. Even where workers have seen fruit amongst Muslim UPGs, with dozens and even hundreds having become believers, the door to them is closed by that tribe and it is much harder to win others to Christ.

- Pray for workers who will go to Chad and who are prepared to go deep into the language and culture to reach the local Muslim community.
- Pray for workers who will persevere for the long-term in Chad and make outreach there a lifelong vocation.
- Pray that God will put Chad on field workers hearts as a place to go and live and work, despite the many challenges and obstacles.

Wednesday 3rd April

Steve - the challenges of life for a Frontiers field worker and his family in Chad

"I have lived in Chad for the past five years with my wife Kate and children. We have a love for the Muslim people here and for the country and we long to see many from different people groups who have never had a chance to hear or read the Bible come to know our wonderful God.

The reality of daily life is often very challenging and overwhelming.

There are the favours for friends, pressure from peers, demands of neighbours, malfunctioning of machinery, trials of the team, suddenness of sandstorms, doggedness of diarrhoea, petitioning of the poor, security situations, cash flow crises, weighty workloads, exhaustion and so the list goes on.

Recently we've have been confronted by pressures of a more fundamental nature that occupy our minds and our prayers. These are the big questions about our future.

Can we really raise a family here? With so much sickness and poverty and physical hardship, surrounded by so many flies and dirt and dust? How do we make 'home' special for our family, whilst also ensuring it is 'culturally appropriate' and welcoming to others? How can we viably participate in life locally when we have such different values, rhythms of life, hygiene levels, approaches to money and eternal hopes? All these things seem insurmountable, and yet we still think we can live here? It seems so unlikely that we could find a sustainable lifestyle here which at the same time enables us to have a huge impact in transforming this whole region.

And how can we endure the distance from home? What happens when our parents get frail and need us, or when our children get older? What if they don't like it here, or are bored, or lonely? What if we stop liking it? How will our children make local friends when they are obviously outsiders; will they ever feel 'normal' here, and does this even matter? How are our children going to learn the local languages? Should we let them run about freely in the neighbourhood like other children, or protect them by keeping them closer to home?

And what about education? Can we reasonably expect them to attend local schools when the standard is so poor? But how else will our kids feel part of life and make friends here? And we remember that our primary task as parents is not to endow privilege and opportunity, but rather to nurture good character, and this can be done anywhere!

And what about us? Can we handle the grind of daily life here year upon year? Can we live with the uncertainty of rebel attacks and cholera outbreaks? Do we want to live out our days in this arid wilderness supping on millet and peanuts?

And how do we balance the many pressures and opportunities of work and life here? There is so much 'good' we could do – but so little we can do unless we have reinforcements. So we've recruited team members to work alongside us. But as we invest in them becoming effective here, we feel another tension: how much time should we spend investing in others versus engaging in the work ourselves? And given the effort it takes to become effective (years of preparation, and then years of study to become fluent in two languages), and the frequency with which people end up returning home prematurely, is it even worth it?

Despite all this, we must have a very, very good reason to be here and we must have a very good reason to still hope things will turn out well for us.

The Bible sheds light on both of these: "for we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:10).

It is truly a privilege and a joy to do what we do. My wife Kate and I have determined to make this our life-long home and vocation. We have seen fruit from our work and we long to see so much more for God's glory. Please do pray for us as we navigate these challenges."

- Father God we lift up Steve and his family to you, bringing them to your throne room and asking for your encouragement, guidance and assurance and for your peace that surpasses all understanding.
- We ask for your supernatural joy that lifts Steve and his wife Kate above the pressure chamber of life in this region.
- We ask that you give them a fresh outpouring of your vision and work for them in this part of the Muslim world, reminding them of the good works you have prepared in advance for them to do and assuring them of your provision.

Thursday 4th April

Mararit Pop: 93,000 Muslim: 99.9%

The Mararit are a people group in need of more workers. They are classified as unengaged and unreached.



They are only known to live in two countries, Chad and Sudan. Their total population is 133,500, of which the majority (93,000) live in Chad.

Most of them live in eastern Chad, north-east of the major market town of Abeche.

This area has a plentiful water supply. The gardens around the rivers can be cultivated all year round so there is no need to move the herds. Their main way of life is agriculture, following a traditional lifestyle passed down through the generations.

Around the time the rains are expected, sacrifices are made before the seeds of their main crop, the millet, is sown. They ask for God's blessing of enough rain and a good harvest. These sacrifices probably go back to practices of pre-Islamic traditions, but today virtually all the Mararit profess to be Muslims.

Their primary language is Mararit. Scripture translation is needed in their language, as are other Bible resources.

- Pray for the Mararit people to be open to hear the gospel and that "the feet of those bringing the Good News" will come to these people who have yet to discover who Jesus really is and what he could mean to them.
- Let's pray for more workers to come to these people, especially those with knowledge of their language and an ability to translate Scripture for them.
- We pray *"that the Mararit people whom you have made will come and worship before you, Lord and will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God."* Ps 86:9-10

Sources: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13532/CD
<https://www.peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=11401>

Friday 5th April

Daju Sila people

Pop: 100,000 – 200,000

Muslim: 100%

The Daju comprise five groups, but those living in Chad are known as the Daju Sila people. They are one of the largest unreached people groups in eastern Chad.

Their society is a patriarchal one so they enthusiastically celebrate the birth of sons.

They are an agricultural and herding people and have very distinct customs. They have been a Muslim people since the 15th century, and the Qur'an is so important to them that they give their babies water to drink that was used to wash a board inscribed with verses from the Qur'an!

It is going to take the power of the Holy Spirit to break through the traditions of the Daju Sila people to open their hearts to even listen to the truth about Jesus. There are very few believers among them and the Daju reputation for fierceness can be a deterrent to many groups even considering trying to reach out to them. They need our prayers.

- Pray for many from the Daju Sila people to soon seek and find a new covenant with Jesus, and not allow anger or vengeance to get in the way of their spiritual lives.
- Let's pray for a Bible translation to be available in their language and, through it, for the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to the truth of Jesus Christ.
- Let's pray for workers with a passion for the Daju Sila people, who can see beyond their reputation for fierceness and who are not deterred from reaching out to them.

Source of most material: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/daju-sila-people/>

Saturday 6th April

My Little Mat in the Shade

The following story is from a Frontiers worker in Northeast Africa and reflects what life is like in countries like Chad.

The day I met Mounira, I was so sick from a case of parasites that I couldn't be more than a few feet away from the hole in the ground that is my bathroom.

A kind neighbour heard I was sick and sat with me while I rested on a mat in the shade. She was fanning flies off me when a visitor arrived and sat down with us. I apologised for not being very hospitable and just listened to the two women talk.

The woman asked my neighbour the questions locals often ask about me: how long I had been living here, what I do for work, why I don't have any children, and why I'm not yet married. Then she asked me about my language learning. I'd been studying the local language for over a year but knew I needed help understanding it and communicating more deeply.



"Do you need another teacher?" the visitor asked. I nodded yes and she said she had someone who could help. Picking up her phone, she called her sister Mounira and told her to come and meet me.

Mounira arrived together with a couple of other women and their children. Suddenly my little mat was full of local women discussing the details of my future language lessons with Mounira. My illness made it difficult for me to think and speak clearly in Arabic, so I left it to them to sort out. I was more concerned about making it to the bathroom in time while visitors swarmed my courtyard.

The next week, Mounira and I sat on the mat for our first lesson. I learned that she is a mother of five and loves coffee. When she was a child, her family lived in Saudi Arabia where she learned to read and fell in love with books. Books are hard to find in our small town, but she collects every one she can get hold of. She's read about different countries and could list dozens of places she wants to visit.

She hadn't ever seen a Bible, but she was hungry to read the Word of God.

"It's one of the holy books and I want to read it for myself," Mounira explained. "I don't want to rely on what others have told me about it."

Now we spend our language times drinking coffee and studying the Bible in the local language. She loves the stories of Jesus and always wants to keep reading more.

I'm thankful that Mounira has become so much more than my language helper. This coffee-loving, book-reading friend has introduced me to her friends and family, helped me tell the carpenter how I want a shelf built, and has explained parts of the local culture that I never understood before.

In the short time we've known each other, we've laughed and cried together. I'm thankful for this dear friend who is sharing her life with me.

- Pray that God would open Mounira's mind and heart to the truth of the gospel as she studies the Bible.
- Pray that Mounira will so love the Word that she invites her friends and family to join her in learning about Jesus Christ.
- Let's pray for an amazing move of the Holy Spirit as they study together, that draws many more to want to come and read the Word of God.