



NEWSLETTER *from Margaret & Celestin*

Dear Friends & Family,

How are you? We're tired but well, having recently recovered from malaria and colds – Praise the Lord! The last few days have been cooler, although very dusty again because of the wind. We're approaching the hottest time of the year in Chad so really appreciate cool weather.

The seminar that we ran at La Bergerie church at the end of February was well attended, especially at the beginning. The first day was open to all and we invited some local pastors to the event. The second day was designed for youth, and even some of the secondary school pupils came. The third day was for ladies (and men) who have family responsibilities and the Saturday afternoon, a workshop for everybody.

The theme of the seminar, translated into English was: *'I will have a salary this year!'* We're trying to break the spirit of dependency and poverty by helping people understand finances and know that they can work in many different ways to have an income. If they manage their finances well, it will be good for them and their families. We want to open people's minds so that they can change their thinking and have a better future.

In Chad many households accept other family members or friends to live with them at home long-term, without contributing to living costs. We have members of the extended family living with us: we pay for their food, we pay for the children to go to school, and pay for treatment if they are sick. There are a few other young people in whom we have invested and paid for their education, as led to do so by the Lord. This is usually sacrificially; there is no benefit for us (apart from being blessed by being obedient to God). We're not obliged to do this, and no-one has to accept other people into their house. We want people to know that they can work, or do small business, which will actually empower them to break free from dependency and plan for the future.

“Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest.”

Proverbs 6 v6-8 (NRSV)

During the rainy season many people suffer from lack of food, and even soap because they have not thought about or planned for this season. We try to help, but we suffer too and cannot carry the burden of others. We are teaching now so that people can be wise, they can plan and won't lack essentials. We're pushing people towards independence. We're even encouraging the idea of developing a habit of saving money for the future. One of the key ideas is that we are citizens of heaven and of earth, so we can develop. We have authority over creation and the environment, so we can change it and steward it well. We used the story of Jacob and his relationship with his father-in-law in the teaching:

“These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.”

Genesis 21 v41 (NRSV)

Feedback received so far is that people are happy, satisfied with this seminar and the teaching they have received. For the first time in a seminar the collection amounted to nearly £50 which paid for the petrol to run the generator to power the instruments used in worship - Praise the Lord!



Celestin was invited to teach the nature and character of God on the Discipleship Training School which has just started at a new Youth With A Mission base in N'Djamena. Knowing God and making him known are foundational values of YWAM, and central to Christian life. Without God there is no hope – only despair, leading to destruction. Knowing God brings life in all its fulness. God made people in his image, to serve him, worship him and be in a personal relationship with him.

The heavens and all creation declares the glory of the Lord (Psalm 19), but his name, and so his personality and character he chooses to reveal as we draw close to him and ask. Moses saw the splendour, majesty and wonder of God in the burning bush. He was told to remove his shoes because God is Holy. Moses wanted to know God's name and God chose to reveal himself:

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 3 v14 (NRSV)

The Bible is God's word and shows who God is and what he is like, and what he has done throughout the generations. He is the God of Salvation, having called Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity. God sent his Son, Jesus who was fully God and fully human into the world to save sinners. All we need to do is believe and follow him. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."* John 3 v16 (NRSV)

When Margaret travels to the UK this month, Celestin will travel to Cameroon to teach about mission and evangelism on the Discipleship Training School in Yaounde. Its a long journey by road but flights are very expensive. We need finances for his journey. He would like to be able to rest there for a few days after teaching.

At the end of April our organisation is holding a conference, where workers in the region come together to seek the Lord, rest and encourage one another. This year the regional leaders have organised for this to be in Albania. Celestin has been invited to represent Chad. Although relatively easy to get there from Europe, it is a long flight from Chad, with a couple of changes en route. If we can pay for his stay it is possible that a special YWAM fund can help with the cost of the flight. We are currently waiting for paperwork from Albania, to apply for a visa for Albania.

The Discipleship Training School in Sarh is due to start in April. Margaret will be involved in this on her return to Chad.

We still need to pay the debt at the builder's merchants and to get benches made so that at least some of the children can move to the walled school land. We realise this will be much safer for the children, especially as more strikes by government teachers are likely. The teachers need a pay rise to cover the rising cost of living in Chad, but so far there has been no progress in the situation.

Also need to continue working on the Health Centre to be able to open and function as such.

"The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds."

Psalm 145 v8-14 (NRSV)



PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God for his nature and character. He loves us and desires relationship with us!
 - Pray for the church in Milligana and in Koundoul as people grow in relationship with Jesus. It was a joy to see so many people engaging with teaching at the seminar. Please pray with us that they put it into practice.
 - Pray for the Discipleship Training School and new base in N'Djamena asking for God's direction.
 - Pray for those preparing to do the Discipleship Training School in Sarh in April. Pray for the Sarh base – still need water supply & toilets.
 - Please continue to pray for the construction of 'La Bergerie' primary school and finance needed. It's in God's hands.
 - Please continue to pray for our safety and the security situation in Chad.
- Please pray for the provision of finances that we need to be able to travel over the coming months. Pray for good journeys and good connections. Pray for Margaret's visit to the UK, for opportunities to meet people and inspire them for missions. Pray for Celestin as he plans to teach on the Discipleship Training School in Yaounde. Pray for his journey there and that he can rest. Please pray for his preparation to attend the staff conference in Albania.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

Margaret & Celestin

If you pay income tax in the UK and would like to gift aid, please sign up to www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20103447. Stewardship claim back from the government the tax paid and add it to your gift.

You are welcome to give directly through our UK bank: Bank name: Santander; Account name: Margaret M TANNER; Sort Code: 09-01-32; Account no.: 85726803.

If you would like to contribute to building La Bergerie primary school wall & toilets, please give through our bank or GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/d7b4fe304>.

Thank you