



NEWSLETTER

from Margaret & Celestin
September 2026



Dear Friends & Family,

Thank you for all your prayers and support. It's so good to partner together to extend the Kingdom of God here on earth. We're excited to report that work is progressing on building La Bergerie Primary School – praise God! We're also in the process of repairing the secondary school classrooms that were damaged in a big storm a few weeks ago. It's been a tough few weeks as we recover and regroup, but we're trusting God. He loves us and cares for us and knows us. Praise Him!

When we started digging the foundations for the block of 4 classrooms (*photo above*) the builder invited an expert to come and check the work. He worked with our builder to improve the design of the foundations; so they will actually be strong enough to support up to 10 storeys (not that we plan to build that high!) We're using much bigger iron, and a lot of gravel, as well as more sand and cement. The foundation pillars are 3 metres deep and secured in place with a thick layer of cement. This is important because the ground is very sandy, and can move when it rains. However, this does cost more money than we have – trusting God for more!



The front of the school wall has been plastered to make it stronger. It's now been painted and has some images to advertise the school (see photo). Some parents have remarked how good this is for locating the school. Many local people are impressed by the depth and strength of the foundations. They're not accustomed to thinking ahead because of a poverty mentality, living from day to day with little hope for the future. This is an opportunity to talk about planning for the good of future generations, and the hope we have in Jesus.

Repairs are nearly complete on 3 of the secondary school classrooms (*photo below*). They have doors and windows, and air vents, as well as being plastered at the front. This will make the rooms much more secure, and stronger than before. The 2 classrooms seriously damaged in the storm actually started out as 'hangars', which are simple shelters made of iron posts and a metal roof. We still need to plaster inside and paint the walls which will make it more pleasant for the students to study and learn. We plan to install a solar panel system to have light, ventilation and a place to charge a computer. These classrooms will be used by the secondary school children in the 'lycée'. They will come in the morning, and the 'collège' will come in the afternoon. The classes which will take exams this year will start mid-September, whilst the primary school and other classes start at the beginning of October.



Construction is expensive in Chad (even more so than in surrounding countries such as Cameroon). A lot of materials have to be imported, and transport is costly. When the war in Ukraine started all prices in the market increased. Fuel has increased in price due to the war in the Middle East so that keeps prices high, as merchants are obliged to pass the cost on to the customer. But we believe the cost is worth it, especially in Chad, which in many places is totally unreached by the gospel. The spiritual battle is strong. We pray people will accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, repent, and grow in relationship with God. We need to tell people this and school is such a good opportunity to witness, whilst fulfilling the need to teach children to read and write. God has overcome and already won the battle. We take the ground back for him little by little, as the Israelites took the promised land piece by piece.

Margaret has already moved into the school office to manage the school finances. She is working closely with the new 'Proviseur' (headmaster), who is very committed to improving the school, and trying to ensure parents pay school fees on time. He is a French language teacher who has worked with us since the school started and has a big heart for helping young people reach their potential. We've sent text messages to

parents to inform them that enrolment has started, and have started contacting those who still owe school fees. It's good to meet parents, although many are surprised to see a white person in the office! It does mean I have to get up early as we open at 7 o'clock in the morning so that parents can come on their way to work. We are inviting parents to a meeting on Saturday, and then will prepare to pray for the school with the teachers and local community next Tuesday.

*'Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life;
no one goes to the Father except by me."'*

John 14 v6 (NRSV)

The church, La Bergerie Evangelique des Nations is being established in another area of Koundoul, called 'La Paix' (peace). The owner of the large plot of land next to the place where the church has been meeting in 'La Paix' has offered to sell a part, or all of it to the church, in order to build. He has already invested in his land by planting trees, including mangoes, and obtaining all the necessary land-registry paperwork.

The church in Milligana has a missionary assigned to them for one month. He is a student on the mission course with the pastor in Koundoul. (The student on the same course who is from Milligana has been posted to another village). He is building a little house in Milligana because although we built the church 'hangar' at the beginning of the year, it isn't really suitable for living in.



Chad desperately needs missionaries; people called to serve God and sent out to share the gospel. We pray, teach, preach and live alongside local people to show the way to salvation. Many people here have never heard, or accepted the gospel. If God is calling you, please let us know how we can support you in your adventure of faith. We understand many people would like to come and visit but cannot; but it really helps us to know that you pray for us and our work, and we really appreciate your generous support. Thank you.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God for his faithfulness, goodness and forgiveness.
- Thank God for his provision to repair the damaged classrooms, build new classrooms and to build the toilets. Pray for the finances needed to continue the construction of La Bergerie School.
- Praise God that the debt at the builder's merchants is paid and that the teachers have been paid for their last month of work before the summer holidays. Thank you.
- Please pray for the new school year as we plan, talk to parents and accept pupils. Pray for the engagement of good, qualified and experienced teachers.
- Continue to pray for the new church in 'La Paix'. Pray about the possibility of buying a portion of the land that is for sale.
- Pray for the church in Milligana and that having a full-time missionary there will really help the people to grow in faith and develop the gifts that God has given them.
- Pray for preparations to start the church in Moundou, the industrial capital of Chad in the south.
- Please continue to pray for our safety and the security situation in Chad.
- Pray for the working of the health centre. As part of the enrolment of schoolchildren we are obliging parents to pay a small sum to go towards the health centre. Thus we can start to treat a child who is sick at school, before the parents take over and continue their treatment as needed. Thank you



Classroom foundations



3 metres deep

GOD BLESS!

Margaret & Celestin



Wonderful to see Meyini from Cameroon, with whom Margaret worked in Sarh, on a short visit.

We are very thankful for your financial support

Here are our UK bank details if you would like to give towards our personal support or mission work: Bank name: Santander; Account name: Margaret M TANNER; Sort Code: 09-01-32; Account no.: 85726803.

If you would like to gift aid in the UK, and help with personal support, 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 (making it bigger).

If you would like to give towards building La Bergerie school, please give through our bank or GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/e439558cf>. *Thank you*