

July, 2011

Dear Bethesda family,

Greetings friends! Our family is wrapping up our time of language study in France, and we are now preparing to move back to Chad to continue the ministry there. Our French studies concluded the end of June. In early July, we along with Rachel's sister Mary who was visiting traveled to north western France to visit some friends. On the way, we stopped at the American cemetery at Omaha beach in Normandy, one of the famous D-Day beaches. With a lump in my throat, I watched my children walk among the nearly 10,000 marble crosses, each one representing an American soldier who gave his life for the liberation of those in Western Europe living under the oppression of the World War II aggressors. We were all moved and humbled...well maybe not Claire...by the extent of the sacrifice made.



Five days later, standing on the side of a country road in the Bretagne region of western France, waiting for the Tour de France peloton to cycle by, I found myself visiting with a French man who shared with me the story of how his grandfather, a fisherman, saved an American pilot shot down over the Atlantic during the war. Once on land, the pilot was captured and imprisoned, but was later released after the liberation of France. He later returned and personally thanked the French family who has fished him out of the sea, saving his life. Two generations later on the side of a remote

road in France, this man, who had never met that American pilot, expressed to me his deep appreciation for the American sacrifice during the war, for soldiers who fought and gave their lives in the effort to liberate people that they did not even know, for being willing to die on foreign soil in order to save the lives of others and to bring freedom to the oppressed.

This is why we do mission...now with guns and planes, but with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God, which has to power and means to liberate mankind from the oppression of sin. We share a story of the God who not only crossed an ocean, but crossed the expanses of space, in order to live and die among us in order to give us freedom from the bondage of sin. He did not have to do this, but He did...for He not only believed in the cause, but He knew us...in fact He created us...and His ever abounding love for His own led Him to save us.

This is why we return to Chad in a few days, to continue the effort of bringing the Gospel to those who have not heard, that they may also be liberated. As many of you know, our ministry these next couple of years will look a little different than it has in the past. We will spend most of our time in N'djamena, the capitol of Chad. There are multiple reasons for this, but two stand out.

Firstly, the Chadian Lutheran Brethren Church and Lutheran Brethren International Mission has entered into a partnership with the purpose of working together in order to better and more effectively engage the unreached Muslims of Chad with the Gospel, to bring the news of freedom to the spiritually oppressed. The leadership and much of the Chadian church operate in the French language, and so we also need to know French to facilitate this process. We hope to be

able to serve as a catalyst to help facilitate the organization of a mission enterprise within the Chadian church body that will bring the Gospel to the unreached Muslims of Chad. We do not know exactly how this ministry will develop, but it will likely include such things as providing training for Chadian missionaries and evangelists who will work with Muslims, visiting Chadian missionaries in the field for the purpose of encouragement and mentorship and the development of training resources for these missionaries. We are hoping to promote a “tent-making” model where we can enable Chadian missionaries to support themselves financially, and to be able to share the Gospel through the context of their service in the communities in which they live. N’djamena is a key location from which to base this ministry, as it is the site of our Welcome Center with conference facilities which can be used for much of this work. We already have a seminar planned for October which will unite church leadership, pastors, missionaries and evangelists, in which we will further plan how to work together in a practical way in the above mentioned mission.

Secondly, we are blessed to be able to send our children to a newly formed American school in N’djamena, run by the AIM mission. We are grateful for the ability to have our children attend such a school where they will be taught by missionary teachers and where they will be able to be with other mk’s from around the globe.

We will also continue to engage the Fulbe people with the Gospel, as we still feel called to this ministry. We will seek to meet and relate to Fulbe people living in the capitol. We will spend time in the village of Doh throughout the year, as we find opportunity, and we hope to join you there in future ministry opportunities as they arise. This is also the ministry that you, Bethesda, have committed too, and we wish to continue in this with you.

Thank you, dear friends, for your continued encouragement, prayers and support for this ministry. We are so appreciative and blessed to have your support. While we are in Chad, we will still use our same email address ([vichumol@yahoo.com](mailto:vichumol@yahoo.com)). Our mailing address: B.P. 1248, N’djamena, Chad, Africa.



Following are some prayer requests that we ask you consider:

- Praise God for a good year in France and for a satisfactory acquisition of the French language for all.
- Pray that we would have a smooth transition back to life in Chad.
- Pray for Gabe, Sylvia and Tevi, as they adjust a new school.
- Pray for Dan, as he partners with the Chadian church, that God would give him wisdom and discernment in this ministry.
- Pray for the Chadian church, that they would discern God’s vision and will for how they are to go forth in mission among the Muslims of Chad.
- Pray for the community of Doh, that God would draw this community to Himself, and that He would use our presence there for His purposes.

In Him,

Dan and Rachel Venberg family