

David & Lucy Morrison

Working with vulnerable women in N'Djamena, Chad



Hello Linda,

The date on this letter says 8th August but my clock says 19th September, so either someone has changed the clocks or we're late, again. 🙄

Firstly, some family news – After a very beneficial couple of weeks' family holiday, Sophie started school on 4th September, leaving behind two bewildered parents wondering where the time went and a confused little sister wondering where her playmate went! We are thankful to see her adapting well and overjoyed to hear her coming home singing songs in French. We'd be grateful for your prayers for us as we seek to parent Sophie well as she experiences many "big feelings" during this transition.





In mid-June we said goodbye to Bethan (bottom right). Pictured is a patchwork Acacia bag made with strips of fabric used at the centre during her time here – This was her parting gift from the women.

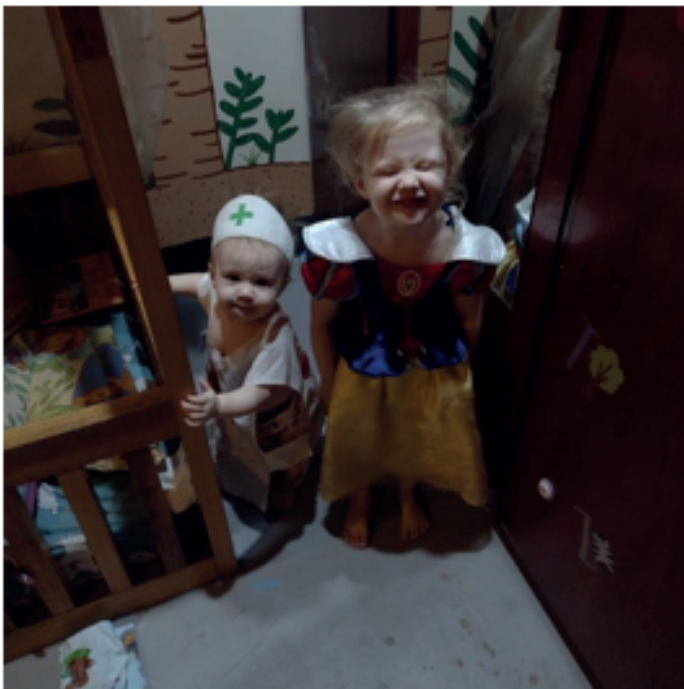
As we enter a new phase of family life, we also enter a new phase in the Acacia ministry: New Rahab and Deborah programmes as well as a 5-week trauma healing course all starting this week, and Lisa, our German short-termer arriving this week.

Deborah Training Programme

It feels like we have done nothing but ask for prayer for the Deborah course as we developed and walk through the application process. As a reminder, this is the beginning of our volunteer training programme for Acacia graduates. In the end we accepted two out of the five applicants as we, with a certain sadness, faced once again the complex realities of these women's lives.

As we considered her application, one lady shared that she recently had another abortion – the second in two years, the first of which we had spent a lot of time working through around the time of the Rahab programme. After leaving her abusive partner who knowingly infected her with HIV she discovered she was pregnant again, and fearing the consequences of a fourth C-Section and the potential of losing a fourth child, she decided to abort. Its disappointing, sad and frustrating not least because we now witness the enormous toll a backstreet abortion has had on her body, still continuing months later.

Here is one example of the complex pastoral situations we face as we try to both continually speak grace over these women, combat the legalism present in Chadian culture and at the same time push them forward towards a integrous life that reflects Christ, particularly for those who want to reach others like them. If you ever remember us and wonder what to pray, wisdom and discernment will always be the answer!



For this first term the two ladies, Fiona and Rebekah, will be helping run a heavily simplified Rahab course for a small group of street girls connected to “Reflets d’espérance,” a ministry run by a partner mission. This will involve a 30-minute object lesson and craft activity. (Pictured above, when Rebekah brought her son and a couple of other kids to play at our house – Sophie was delighted!)

Rahab Course 2023/24



After being delayed twice due to rain, our second, and Acacia's fourth, Rahab course began this week. As we mentioned last time we are excited and extremely grateful to God to have Laura and Lisa on board for this course.

Some of you have been praying and asking about our choice of women.

As we talked and prayed about who the Rahab course is for, we both felt that we should cast the net a little wider this time. For that reason, we began on Monday with an introduction session explaining exactly what the course is (an intensive time of biblical-based teaching and trauma therapies) and what it isn't (an offer of free employment), who it's for (primarily those in prostitution) and the commitment required. Going forward, the women now have the choice of whether to commit or not.



Our new 3D tree made by Laura – We use this in the first couple of sessions as we talk about what we do and why we are called Acacia. It will soon bloom into flower!

Potential candidates include two ladies from a Islamic background (one still practicing), one who dropped out of the previous course, two still on the fence about faith and probably in prostitution and two more in the category of “at risk of prostitution.” We would love to have them all with us but feel it is important, particularly for the first two, to make their own choice to commit.

Please pray with us over the coming days that God would lead those of his choosing to the course and give them the stickability they will need. Only two of the six invitees turned up to the intro session and brought two uninvited guests who don't fit into our target audience, so the session provided a good indirect way of asking those women not to come as Lucy explained clearly who we were reaching. We hope at least three of the four others will join us on Thursday.





Top: In august we celebrated Lucy's 30th and Olivia's 1st birthday as well as our 7th anniversary. In true Chad style we had far too much food for Lucy's party as a number of the guests got stuck in a "tapis rouge" (road blocks for important people passing that last as long as a piece of string) and had to give up.

Bottom: We've had mixed success in our vegetable patch efforts this year: We planted courgette seeds and harvested very large cucumbers (left) and planted mangetout seeds from the UK but seem to have sprouted alien eggs instead. After some research, it appears they are "bitter melons" – We'll let you know how they taste!

TEAM Chad Conference

This year we have the privilege and rather daunting responsibility of running TEAM Chad's annual conference in December this year. This is a very special week in the life of the mission where everyone on the field, around 35 adults this year, gets together to pray for one another, receive spiritual refreshment and prayerfully discuss where we are headed as a field. We are delighted to have a team of 4 coming from England and N. Ireland to run a programme for our children and young people, as well as Alister Campbell coming to lead our morning Bible teaching for the adults. Please pray specifically for: a satisfactory plan for catering, guidance in topics to cover and good communication and preparation for the kids team as they prepare in separate locations.

Thanks as always for your interest and prayer support. For those who have joined us more recently, we have a WhatsApp broadcast group where we send out specific prayer requests and information on a more frequent basis. If anyone else is interested in joining this just send us an email or a WhatsApp on our UK numbers.

Much love,

David & Lucy