



# CONCRETE DRIVE!

I am not sure what the above term conjures up in your mind, but perhaps the drive-way of your home. But what we have in mind is a bit different. We need concrete (or more correctly sand and cement)! You see, CEF has a shipping container loaded with medical supplies and with 200 bags of cement. We are praying that it will be on a ship headed for Africa in a couple of days. The problem is that the container was scheduled to leave the USA three months ago! We have a building team from the USA and Italy that will arrive in Chad the first week in January 2009. The container will not arrive by the time our construction team will need its contents. Our Chadian crew is making concrete blocks to be used for the construction of the children's ward and the maternity department. They are out of cement. Cement is very expensive in Chad at \$23/bag compared to \$8 in some places of the USA. It often isn't even available, so we stock up when we can. We certainly do not want the builders to arrive and not have what they need to work with. We will also need to buy re-bar, metal trusses, sheet metal roofing, etc.



Arab girl in N'Djamena, Chad who needs medical care and she needs Jesus.

As you probably know, because of the current economic situation, contributions to missions are significantly down. We are so close to opening the hospital that we need to push ahead despite the current trying times. My wife, Debbie, and I recently visited the CEF Chad hospital site. The guest house is ready as are the main hospital building and the wards for men and women. Before we can open for patient care, we need the children's ward and maternity. The x-ray machine is in the container as well and we'll need a building for it.

We are encouraged that there is now medical staff from the UK and Chad preparing to serve with us in Chad at Hopital de Guinebor II. There are also American dentists interested in running the dental department.

Dr. Roy Jones and his wife, Jane, will start service in Chad with us in July 2009. Another British couple, both are doctors, are also interested in working with us starting about a year from now. We have spoken to two Chadian doctors and a lab tech. Thus, the Lord is supplying the workers.

Every time I see the smiling faces of the beautiful Arab children as they come to the CEF well for water, I am saddened, knowing that they have never been told of Jesus' love and how they and their families can be saved from spending an eternity separated from the Lord. They leave the well with only water for their bodies and nothing for their souls.



Arab children at the well outside Cutting Edge Foundation hospital (Hopital de Guinebor II) at N'Djamena September 2008. With the rainy season ending everything is very green.



Arab girls at Cutting Edge Foundation Hospital (Hopital de Guinebor II) N'Djamena Chad September 2008

Please pray for the American team of English teachers (Ward & Mona Filgo from Baton Rouge and Dick Steuart from near Orlando) who will go with us in January to develop relationships through English teaching. We may also show the Jesus film.

Pray also for the construction team (Americans and an Italian) that will work in harness with Pastor Sirbele, our Chadian builder, and his Chadian team.

We were blessed during this trip last month greatly as we made a quick trip to Cameroon to visit with special Cameroonian friends we had helped train medically. Our mutual love and respect was palpable. We received a wonderful, warm welcome. It was a great joy to realize that these nationals are real professionals now doing a great job taking care of their countrymen. Many of them are team leaders or heads of departments. We knew most of them when they were young and single and now most of them have several children. They are all very precious to us.



Guest House at Hopital de Guinebor II, N'Djamena, Chad September 2008



Ward at Hopital de Guinebor II, N'Djamena, Chad September 2008 is actually two wards, having a capacity of 20 to 24 beds. There will be a men's ward and a women's ward with a nurse's station between them.



But now we are focused on completion of Hopital de Guinebor II in Chad. We are anxious to get it open and to use it as a base so we can witness to the Arabs and other lost of the love of Jesus. We are anxious to serve the unfortunate young Muslim women who are forced into marriage at a very young age and because of complicated deliveries from the pelvis not being mature enough to have a baby they suffer from vesico-vaginal fistula. They are some of the saddest and desperate patients, often abandoned by their families. However, we would like to go beyond simply repairing the fistulas but we plan to also use the hospital as a training center for teaching the Chadian surgical techs how to correctly perform C-sections, as this procedure performed in a timely manner is definitive in prevention of the fistula. This pro-active approach is the only way to lower the very high maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rate. We would like then to take these skilled technicians and place them at maternity centers that are more accessible to the patients who need them.

But, first we must complete the Guinebor II Hospital construction.

If you are inclined to help us, even providing funds for one bag of cement (\$23), if enough of us participate, will allow the construction to advance.

We appreciate your past faithful support and prayers. If you have not participated in the CEF ministry in the past, we invite you to join us as we are used of God to bless others. The Bible tells us that we will also be blessed.

May the Lord be honored by it all!

Bert

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