

# Andrea and Mark Hotchkin

## Leaving and arriving

July 2022



[www.bmsworldmission.org/amhotchkin](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/amhotchkin)

Dear Friends,

It is good to write this to you from a very sunny Penzance where we are completing our preparation for our home assignment visits starting this weekend. After the concerns in Bardai about the weather being too cloudy and the airport having too much military activity due to the problems on the gold fields, the main problem was a severe sand storm which caused difficulties for the plane arriving but our flight down was smooth. We have been busy with medicals and also a BMS conference with all mission workers and partner workers from around the world and in the UK meeting together.

In February this year we performed surgery for a patient with a perforated duodenal ulcer. He was a long-distance lorry driver who had somehow managed to drive his lorry from Libya to Bardai whilst seriously unwell. The surgery went well but despite his cheerful demeanour it was clear something was not right. We operated again and still he made very slow progress despite all our efforts and trying all sorts of solutions. Although the surgery had again gone well his bowels would not start working and was still having intravenous fluids. His mother and sister arrived and still he continued to deteriorate, one night a month after his first surgery, he stopped breathing and was resuscitated by the team at the hospital and to our amazement started to recover. It has been a very slow process, through it all he has been the most patient and cheerful person and we were excited to see him first in a wheelchair and then finally trying to stand using crutches as we left. We praise God for his miracle of healing and pray he continues to improve.



In April, after the visit of the Minister of Health to Bardai, Dr Abdel Kerim left for Ndjamena where he hoped to follow up on the promises the minister had made for the hospital especially for a new generator as the old one was non-functional. The good news is that he was able to do this and just before we left a new generator arrived on board a large lorry, a great relief as sterilising and operating at night without it is very hard. Unfortunately Dr Abdel Kerim himself did not arrive as he continued to source drugs for the pharmacy and organise other hospital related issues in Ndjamena. However we managed to meet up as we passed through the capital and have a good chat about the new X-ray machine, staffing and the solar panels. All of this led to us ordering the digital X-ray reader machine, it should be in country by the time we get back and we hope to install it by Christmas. Staffing remains a problem and we are thinking about going together with Abdel Kerim to the health ministry to discuss this when we return. We are hoping a specialist from a International Organisation for Migration will go to Bardai and advise us on our solar system before we make more decisions about what to do next. So small progress in all areas.



Although we continue to make progress at the hospital we still struggle with the numbers of staff present and we had to leave the hospital without a doctor. The doctor who was there was moved elsewhere in Chad, his replacement was on a training course and the director at Ndjamen. Even when present, staff can be reluctant to work hard and care for the patients. We pray for a new spirit of servanthood especially amongst our staff who are Christians and we pray for leadership that will see this staffing as a priority and do all that is possible to enable the hospital to function well.

We have been enjoying spending time belatedly celebrating our 60th birthdays with family at a rock concert in the Royal Albert Hall and canal boating and also meeting friends and family without the lockdown restrictions. Rebecca had her delayed graduation in Southwark cathedral for her global health degree and continues her medical studies and Ruth has completed the first year of her masters in International Development.

### Praise

For meetings with Dr Abdel Kerim

Yaya's healing

Birthday Celebrations

### Prayer

For doctors and more nurses at the hospital

For a new spirit of serving at the hospital

For all to go well with installing the X ray and solar needed

For our visits during home assignment

We are looking forward to meeting some of you as we travel around the country our schedule is below please join us if you can.

Mark and Andrea

**Penzance Methodist Church** 10.30AM Saturday  
Coffee morning 16/7/2022

**Wellington Baptist Church** 10.30AM Sunday Service  
17/7/2022

**South Street, Exeter** 3.00PM 18/7/2022

**Rockingham Road Baptist, Northampton** 7.30PM  
20/7/2022

**Fuller Baptist Church, Northampton** PM Evening  
21/7/2022

**Ilkley Baptist Church** 10.45AM Sunday Service  
24/7/2022

**Moortown Baptist Church** 10.00AM 25/7/2022

**New North Road, Huddersfield** 10.30AM 27/7/2022

**Acomb Baptist Church, York** 7.30PM 28/7/2022

**Kings Street Baptist, Thetford** 10.45AM Sunday  
service 31/7/2022

**Burgh Baptist Church** 7.00PM 1/8/2022

**Stafford Baptist Church** PM Evening 2/8/2022

**Galashiels Baptist Church** 10.30AM 6/8/2022

**Perth Baptist Church** 10.30AM Sunday service  
7/8/2022

If you would like to support Andrea and Mark Hotchkin by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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