

## EDUCATION THAT KEEPS MISSIONARIES SERVING



Hannah Coggins works at Wellspring Academy in Chad. Discover the school's primary purpose, it may surprise you.

20% of missionaries return home for the educational needs of their children

### Why we do what we do

Education, teaching, learning, which of these words would you expect to appear in a sentence about a school?

Well, any of those would be very logical, and at Wellspring Academy those things are very important to us. But we actually describe our main goal like this:

*'Attracting and Retaining Cross cultural Christian workers in Chad for the glory of God.'*

Wellspring was started, and continues to help cross cultural workers come to Chad and stay here. God is in charge of all of our comings and goings, and we believe he uses our school to help people to stay.

### Where do our families come from?

At Wellspring we teach in English. Our students come from English-speaking countries like the USA, UK and Canada, but they also come from other countries, like Germany, Brazil and Ethiopia.

There are lots of challenges for families coming from places like these because there are no schools here in their 'home' language and homeschooling materials can also be difficult (or impossible!) to find. So, an English-speaking school is a big part of helping their family to live and work in Chad.

### A variety of gifts

What do they do? The children's parents are all involved in outreach, but they also serve in a range of roles including as pilots, English teachers, farmers, engineers and counsellors.



Lots of our families work on teams which focus on a particular group of people – there are 80 different unreached people groups in Chad, which means there are lots of languages to learn and people to meet. Some of the students, like Abe, come to Wellspring every weekday and so we call them 'day students'.

### Help for home schoolers

We also love to welcome the home schoolers twice a year for home school week. The picture shows our recent 'Spy Academy' theme, and the large group of children who came to join us. Many of the unreached people live far away from our city. The families who work with them live in small towns and villages and home school their children. I have been to visit some of them – it's great to see different parts of Chad, encourage the families and learn from them too. Some families have a home school helper or teacher – this is another way to serve God in Chad through teaching.

Through teaching, we not only get to serve God, but our work allows families to serve in him in different ways too!

### Meet Abe

Abe is from Ethiopia and has been at Wellspring for three years. His parents have been serving in Chad for seven years, learning a local language and sharing the truth about Jesus with people who have never heard.

They do this through their work in a hospital – it's their job to welcome people, help them know where to go and what to do during their stay, and offer to pray with them.

They have many opportunities to meet people from all over Chad through this work. While they are doing this, Abe and his brother come to school everyday as 'day students'. Their parents know they are happy, safe and making good progress with their education.



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