

CONNECT



FROM AFRICA
INLAND MISSION

JUNIOR



MISSION ONLY

WOMEN

CAN DO!



06

**EXPLORE CHAD AND
MEET THE NEEM PEOPLE**



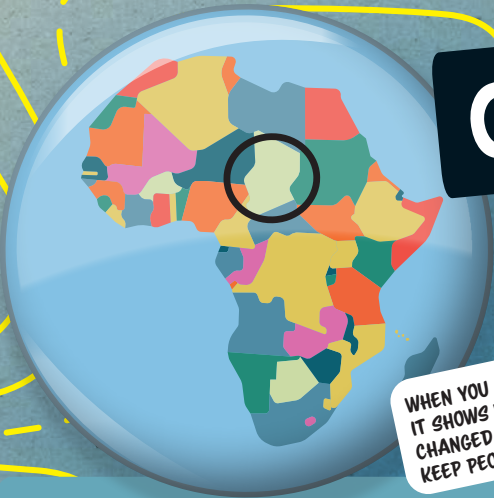
04

**USING A LOVE OF
SEWING TO SHARE JESUS**



09

**DANIEL'S TIME IN
MOZAMBIQUE**



CHAD



WHEN YOU SEE A * IT SHOWS WE HAVE CHANGED A NAME TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.



Welcome

In this edition we will be visiting the country of Chad. We will explore Chad together and learn about the Neem*, one of the country's people groups who haven't yet heard about Jesus.

We will also be thinking about the unique role that women play in the mission field. We are going to meet some of them and hear about the different ways in which they are reaching others with the gospel of Jesus.

Why not have a think about what life is like for girls here in the UK? Then read the facts about girls in Africa. What's the same? What's different? Were you surprised?

Rosie our new editor and wordsmith

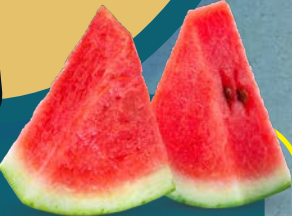


FACTS ABOUT CHAD!

Population
18.42 Million

Unreached without Jesus:
10 Million

Main language:
Arabic, French



12.8% ETHNIC



24.1% CHRISTIAN

RELIGIONS IN CHAD

63.1% ISLAM

WHO WILL SHARE WITH THEM?



Ann lives in eastern Chad in a culture where women and men can't speak freely to each other.

Ann says: "Many of the local women don't really understand their religion. The God they hear of is distant and not someone you can know. Religion to them is all about following rules. They memorise parts of the Quran and recite it, even though they don't understand it. They believe that just saying the words will bring blessing. So when women decide to follow Jesus, they don't often realise they need to grow in faith and that it is a good thing to do.

Not only that, but the local Muslim women are not used to sharing what they think in front of men. Imagine you wanted to learn more about Christ, but you weren't allowed to ask. If the women can't speak to the men, how will they hear about Jesus? That's why we need women to go and tell women about Jesus!"

PRAY for new believers to learn just how good God is and that they can draw near to him in faith.

PRAY for women like Zara to understand that it is only by knowing God that they will find true and lasting joy.

PRAY for female missionaries like Ann to help church women grow in their faith so that they can share the gospel with their neighbours.

FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN AFRICA

1. HALF OF AFRICANS
About 50% of the population in Africa are female.



2. READY TO GET MARRIED?
In 2020, 1 out of 10 girls in Sub-Saharan Africa were married before they were 15.

3. SCHOOL'S OUT

Only a quarter of girls complete secondary school.



4. IN NEED OF JESUS
212 million women and girls haven't heard the gospel.

5. UNABLE TO READ

30% of African young people aged 15-24 cannot read or write.



MEET ZARA

"Zara is from southern Chad and understands very little French or Arabic. About 15 months ago, she accepted Christ, but I didn't see much change in her life. She didn't come to church or the women's group. I decided to do Bible studies with her. We listened to the Bible in her own language and discussed in Arabic what it says. She didn't know what being saved meant. Or that we are separated from God without Christ. But she prayed to accept Christ. Now she comes to church and to the women's group, I have seen a real change in her."

SEWING AND SHARING JESUS

"What was started by only a few, God has grown to a team of more than 20 Christian volunteers. Last year, more than 100 international women came to our church for English classes and the sewing group. Most of them are from countries that are hard to reach or haven't been reached with the gospel."

Since 2003, Louise's* church in the UK has been running sewing groups to connect with the international women in their city: seeking to sow the good news of Jesus while they sew. They also run an English class with a crèche for the international women who struggle to learn English.

"As we get to know the women who come, we find there are similarities despite our differences. Many of them speak more than one language but most struggle to keep up with English classes offered by the local college. All of them have families in this country and links with family from their home country too. Most have come looking for a better life or from poor or war-torn countries. Some will have been illegally trafficked into the U.K., forced to work or sold as slaves. Many are lonely. They all enjoy the warm welcome and friendly teaching, as well as the opportunity to meet women from other cultures. Above all, most of these women have never heard the good news of Jesus."

"We have been doing this for 20 years. Lots has changed but two things remain the same: a commitment to pray and a desire to share the good news of Jesus among the internationals God has brought to our city."

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING?

This is when people are tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes, moved somewhere else, and then forced to work or be sold as slaves.



PRAY:

Ask God to show you how you can connect with the internationals in your area.

SNAPSHOT

- 20 CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS
- 100 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN
- 4 CONTINENTS REPRESENTED
- 27 LANGUAGE GROUPS

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM



Ministry can look very different in places where Christians can't freely speak about their faith in Jesus. Our Nigerian colleague, Deborah*, has found that those who have come to know Jesus have done so through friendship.



PATIENCE



"We met Patience*, a girl from Nigeria, when she came to work for us as a housekeeper and nanny. We were the third family she had been hired out to.

A BETTER FUTURE?

Over time, we learned she was actually a victim of human trafficking. A woman had promised Patience's relatives a better future for her in a different country. Sadly, the woman lied. She ran a business of sending poor girls from West Africa to this country. But the girls usually ended up being treated very badly.

FRIENDSHIP TO FAITH

Patience was afraid, unwell and depressed. So I decided to look out for her. I would speak kindly to her, give her small gifts and - most importantly - pray for her. She eventually opened up to me about her life story. This gave me the opportunity to tell her about Jesus. She became a Christian and her life was transformed.

GROWING AND BACK HOME

One of the first things I did was teach her how to read the Bible by herself. It had a deep impact on her spiritual growth. Today, we are pleased that Patience is back home with her parents. She has her own sewing business and she has joined a church."



MARIE



KEEPING IN TOUCH

"Marie* is a local lady who was an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) student. I taught her on her own, which meant that I could get to know her. I asked how she was and found out about her family and husband. After the classes ended, I kept in touch with her."

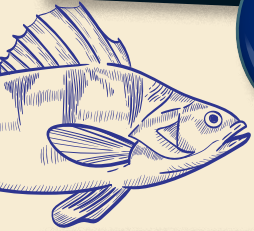
NOT FAR FROM FAITH

"Sometimes she invites me to restaurants, just to meet together and chat. Though I haven't told her about Jesus yet, I have already laid the foundation. I believe she isn't far from being saved."

TELL US HOW YOU HAVE SHARED JESUS WITH YOUR FRIENDS...



EXPLORE CHAD



LIFE IN CHAD

The majority of Chad's population live in rural areas and grow a range of crops including rice, sorghum, peanuts, millet and cotton. Those living around Lake Chad rely on it for fish and farming, as well as using it as a watering source for their cattle and goats.



GIRLS IN CHAD

From an early age, girls cook, clean, fetch water and sweep. At 13 years old, they can be married, often to someone they don't know, who may be much older than them. School is not considered of great importance. Children may be in school for several years, but still leave before they can read. Often, girls are not sent to school even if their brothers are, and will leave school if they marry early.



DID YOU KNOW?
Elephants, hippos, rhinos, warthogs, giraffes, antelopes, lions, leopards, and cheetahs all live together in the savannah.



PRAY FOR CHAD



Pray for Sudanese refugees who have fled their homes and are now sheltering in Chad, that God would comfort them.



Lake Chad is getting smaller every year because of global warming and this is affecting people's lives. Pray that a solution will be found to stop this.



Pray for peace in Sudan, and for all the mothers and children escaping to Chad to be welcomed and looked after.



Give thanks for projects like the Microfinance Development Support Project which helps women and youth in rural Chad.

N'DJAMENA

The capital city of Chad lies on the east bank of the Chari River, next to Cameroon. It is an important market site as it is surrounded by cotton-growing, cattle-raising and fishing areas. The city is home to the Université de N'Djamena and the Chad National Museum.

Zakouma National Park is the first of its kind in Chad. Once a target for ivory poachers and dealing with dwindling wildlife numbers, Zakouma has recently celebrated 6 years without a single recorded poached elephant and a resurgence in tourism. It is part of the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem.



ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

MEET THE NEEM*

The Neem* are one of the largest non-Arab people groups in Chad with around 450,000 people. They live in north eastern Chad as well as in Sudan, with a language that's distinctively different from neighbouring groups. They are known to have a strong sense of identity and are resistant to change. They can also be wary of outsiders. The arrival of satellite TV, mobile phones and exposure to the outside world has challenged many of their beliefs.

WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

The Neem people strongly identify as Muslim although some know little of Islam's beliefs. This means their Islamic practices are mixed with traditional African religious rituals. Many of them live in fear, using amulets and charms to try and fight off evil and sickness. Many are unable to read or write, so missionaries need to be creative when it comes to teaching believers. Those deciding to follow Christ are often cut off from their Muslim family and friends.



PRAY FOR THE NEEM



Give thanks for the Neem believers who have had their eyes opened by the gospel message.



Pray for those who have shown interest in learning about Jesus, but are afraid to go deeper.



Pray for those facing opposition because of their faith, that God will strengthen and comfort them.



Ask God to raise up more workers for this mission opportunity.



Pray for the team serving amongst the Neem, that God would give them wisdom in their ministry.



Pray that Jesus would break this power of fear the people are living under, and that they would seek him rather than use amulets and charms.



AMELIA ON VOLCANO ISLAND



“Volcano Island women are loud and colourful, they run week-long weddings and love to sing, dance and argue. The matrilineal* society means women are the heart of life on the island and so they should be at the heart of any true island church. Yet it took over 15 years after I arrived before the first woman came to faith as a result of our team’s ministry.

SHE SAID YES!

Aisha heard the gospel while on a neighbouring island and once back at home she shared what she has heard with her mum and younger sister. She wanted to learn more. So I asked her mum (Mama Aisha) whether we could do that as a family and – unexpectedly – she said yes!

THE REAL STORY

Every week I walked up the steep hill in the blazing sun to their house, to walk them through the big story of the Bible. There were lots of giggles and shyness as they got used to talking to God for themselves, and sharing their thoughts and ideas. We would sit behind their tin shack and sing worship songs in their own language - where the neighbours could hear us!

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED?

‘What difference has following Jesus made to you?’ we asked Mama Aisha. She laughed and said ‘At the beginning I thought it was all just a

load of rubbish, but Amelia was stubborn, she didn’t give up on us and after a while the stories began to make sense. Then one day we all decided that we wanted to follow Jesus too!’

FREE AT LAST

And Mama Aisha didn’t keep what she learnt to herself; she shared those stories with a neighbour and a few months later they had the joy of being baptised together with Aisha. Mama Aisha shared how – as she came up from the water – she felt like a huge weight had lifted off of her. She was free!

GROWING AND SHARING

Of course, many challenges remain but, in it all, Mama Aisha is slowly learning how to lead her family in faith and share the good news with those around her.”



*MATRI WHAT?

A matrilineal society is when family lines and inheritance come from the mother’s side. A baby takes their mother’s family identity. Mothers are the heads of families, and possessions pass from mother to daughter. This is the opposite of the way things have been traditionally in the UK.

DANIEL'S TIME IN MOZAMBIQUE



“Just after I turned one, our family moved to a small flat in Mozambique. It was a country that had been at war for 30 years. Life there felt normal to me. But looking back, I can see how brave it was of my Mum and Dad to go with two toddlers to a country that was still filled with landmines. The roads and almost everything else had been destroyed.

FAMILY LIFE

Dad worked with the local church. He met with the local Muslim people to tell them about Jesus. Mum’s time was spent looking after us children, home schooling us and trying to get food. She also worked with women and children from the church. In Mozambican culture it would have been very difficult for a man to do that. So Mum was able to share God’s love with many people who Dad could not.

MY MUM THE BUSH DOCTOR

When I was 10, we moved to a remote village on the coast of Mozambique. Here, Mum continued to reach out to the local women, teaching them how to read and write. She also learnt a new role as “bush doctor”. There were no real doctors or nurses for miles and people didn’t have cars to drive. So they came to our hut for help. Often mothers brought sick children. Mum would give them medicine, pray for them and share some of the comfort that Jesus brings.

REAL HELP

One lady had two-year-old twins called Maisha and Aisha. They were weak and tiny and still looked like babies. She didn’t have enough food for them. Mum gave them medicine to make them stronger and gave their mother powdered milk and food so she could feed them. Each week they came back for more milk and prayers. I don’t know what happened to them in the end, but I hope Mum’s help was enough for the twins to survive.”

DID YOU KNOW?



It was very hard for Muslim people to become Christians. Their family and village would reject them.



One of Dad’s friends found it so hard to follow Jesus that he became a Muslim again.



Getting food was a big job because there were no shops with refrigerators. Eggs and vegetables were often bad or had maggots in them. Bags of rice were usually filled with bugs, called weevils, which had to be removed before cooking.



DANIEL TODAY WITH HIS DAUGHTER

HAVE A GO AT CROSS-STITCH

While you sew, think of the women who attend the sewing classes at Louise's church and pray that they would know Jesus.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Tapestry needle
- Cross stitch mesh
- Embroidery threads
- Scissors
- Cross-stitch template (or make one up!)

- 1 Choose the thread you will use at the centre of the pattern and separate off two strands. Pulling one at a time will stop it tangling.
- 2 Thread the two strands through your needle, then tie a knot at the end. (Ask an adult for help if this is a bit tricky.)
- 3 Find the centre of the mesh and push the needle through a hole in the back of the mesh. This is Point A.
- 4 The thread then goes diagonally down to Point B.
- 5 From the back of the mesh it comes up at Point C.
- 6 Then diagonally across and through Point D. Well done, you've completed your first square!
- 7 Now do the rest of the same coloured squares repeating steps 3-6.
- 8 When you have finished with that colour, loop the thread through the back of the cross stitch and cut the rest off.
- 9 Repeat steps 2-8 for each colour until you have finished.

Send in a photo of your finished project!

READER'S LETTER

Hi, I enjoyed making the dancers. I was inspired to make them when I saw them in the Connect magazine. They are going to be a gift for my dance teachers. I really enjoy reading the magazine and doing the craft!
Bye! Addi

THANKS ADDI. WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS!
THOSE DANCERS ARE BRILLIANT, WELL DONE!



IF YOU HAVE A LETTER OR PICTURE, PLEASE EMAIL:
MAILINGS.EU@AIMINT.ORG

OR WRITE TO AIM, UNIT 3A BEESTON BUSINESS HUB,
BEESTON SQUARE, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM, NG9 2JG

We would love to hear from you

MAKE JUS DE FRUIT

You will find many vendors selling Jus de Fruit on street corners in Chad. It's a milkshake drink, flavoured with different fruits (this will depend on what is in season at the time) and a hint of cardamom and nutmeg.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 pineapple
 - 500ml of milk
 - 1 tbsp sugar
 - 10 ice cubes
 - 1/4 tsp cardamom
 - 1/8 tsp nutmeg
- Enough for 2-3 glasses



TO MAKE:

- Peel and cut up the fruit. Ask for help from an adult!
- Put the fruit, ice cubes, milk and sugar into a blender. Make sure it is strong enough for cutting ice cubes.
- Add in the cardamom and nutmeg. These spices can be quite strong, so start by adding a small amount.
- Blend the mixture until smooth.
- Do a taste test and add more spice if you would like to.
- Blend again as needed.
- Pour into a glass, drink and enjoy!

IN CHAD THEY ALSO USE ORANGE, MANGO, GUAVA AND PAPAYA.

X CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

2. N'Djamena lies on the east bank of the ___ River?
5. Jus de fruit contains cardamom and ___.
6. Which is the largest non-Arab people group in Chad?
7. Which mountains are home to the best camel racing in the world?

DOWN:

1. Chad is known as the Tower of ___?
3. Where does Patience come from?
4. Louise* helps run sewing and ___ classes?

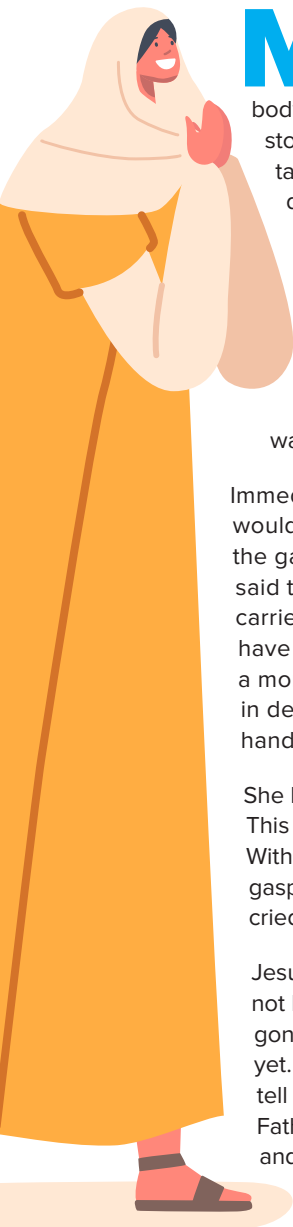
WORD SEARCH

BAPTISM CHAD DISCIPLE FAITH FRIENDSHIP GOSPEL INTERNATIONAL MOZAMBIQUE PEANUTS SEWING VOLCANO WOMEN

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1. Nutmeg 6. Neem 7. Tibesti
5. Niger 2. Chad 3. Nigeria 4. English





THE FIRST EVANGELIST

Mary was distraught. Early that morning she had come to the garden to anoint Jesus' body. But someone had moved the stone from the entrance way and taken Jesus' body. Tears streamed down her face as she wept. The tomb looked so empty.

"Why are you crying?" A voice asked from behind her, startling her. "Who is it you are looking for?"

She turned to the stranger. He was smiling kindly at her.

Immediately she hid her face so he wouldn't see her tears. It must be the gardener, she thought. "Sir," she said through her sobs, "if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." For a moment he didn't say anything and in despair she buried her face in her hands. "Mary."

She looked up in surprise. That voice! This was no gardener. It was Jesus. With tears frozen on her face, Mary gasped in delight. "Rabboni!" She cried, reaching for him. "Teacher!"

Jesus gently pushed her away. "Do not hold on to me," he said. "I haven't gone up to my Father in heaven yet. You must go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

With a nod, Mary raced through the garden, down the street and back to the house where the disciples were hiding. She burst through the door. "I have seen the Lord!" she declared to them.

Although Jesus spent most of his ministry with his male disciples, it was a woman who first saw him after his death and resurrection. It was a woman who first went and told the other disciples the good news. Not only do women have an important part to play in telling others about Jesus, but this passage from the Bible shows that Jesus himself invites them to be part of this wonderful opportunity. For those girls and women in Africa living in a male-dominated society, this is an encouragement for them to take their place in God's plan for spreading the kingdom message.

PRAY

- Give thanks for the women in your church who have helped you on your faith journey.
- Give thanks for the female missionaries who have 'seen' Jesus and are boldly telling others about him.

Find this story:
JOHN 20:1-18

SAY HELLO...

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AIM is a missionary organisation that helps churches send people to work among Africa's people and tell them the good news of Jesus Christ.

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