



Baines Broadcast

August 2005

News from David and Evelyn Baines.
Serving in Chad.

Our first 6 Months in Africa

A house in Ndjaména!

SIL Chad Personnel were on the look out for a house for us before we got to N'djamena. Quite a challenge! Fortunately, one was found 2 days before we move in, on our first day in Chad. We expected to stay 9 months initially, now we may get to take over the lease of the house from the mission we are subletting it from, as of January 2006!! We will need to have our own furniture made, as the furniture the mission rented to us will no longer be available. We are so grateful we can stay!

It takes us 15 minutes to walk to the SIL centre where we work. We now know our way around most of the city, the few shops and a number of markets. One is 5 minutes walk away.

Work at the SIL Centre

DAVID started in the computing department where he feels he fits in well with the team. His main area of responsibility has been the management of the email system, the configuration on individual's computers as well as on the email server. He was in charge of the department for 2 weeks while his supervisor was abroad in February and while he was away again for 3 weeks in July. In April, David assisted during a couple of computer courses run by his department. The first week focused on word processing, the second week on teaching translators the use of software specific to their task.

EVELYN, this first year helps in various administrative tasks since SIL Chad lacks personnel. She will start her own assignment in 2006. Elisabeth Gfeller is mentoring her in Literacy and Education in the Mother Tongue. Evelyn assists Liz Williams and supervises Aron Tapmi, the administrator of the SIL training centre, where a number of courses are run to facilitate both Bible translation and literacy. In July, Ev also started work in the literacy department to replace a colleague gone on furlough. She supervises 4 literacy coordinators of the Gor, Nangjere, Mango and Gabri literacy projects.

Heat that makes candles wilt!

Temperatures went from mid 20°C in December to 47°C by late February, and regularly that high until the first rains in mid-June brought 35°C. After the dry heat, the humidity level rose steadily from April and continues in July. Every 3-4 days, the rains bring relief and much flooding! At the height of the hot season, sleeping was difficult even with the benefit of an evaporative cooler and a fan. Electricity would come on most nights but rarely during the day.

Highlights

December 24th, 2004 Our shipment arrives on time to unpack and decorate our home for Christmas. We celebrate by having SIL members over for a Christmas breakfast.

January 2005 Work orientation: Evelyn in Training department, David in Computer department. Ev interprets for a Psalms workshop and gains insights on translating Hebrew poetry. Participants are thrilled with the course.

February SIL Chad has a 4-day retreat and we meet many SIL teams that have come in from the villages.

March 21st We see the first clouds in Chad's blue sky. Evelyn takes part in a refresher course for Literacy Coordinators.

April It is very hot! David assists in a couple of computer training courses for African Translation Teams.

May Holiday in Europe, via Tripoli: Reunion with Evelyn's family. Celebrate our 4th Anniversary in Norway. Visit Oddmund and Svanhild (AOC) and celebrate the Norwegian National Day. Visit Torkel and Rachel. It even snows! Reunion with David's family and enjoyed a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings!

June Visit Schaerbeek Church and St Paul's. Celebrate Evelyn's Birthday and her parent's 40th Anniversary! Back to Chad!

July It rains and floods! Much to prepare for the Africa Training Program, Aug 20th-Nov 4th for 16 students from French speaking countries to learn linguistics, translation and literacy principles.



When we returned from Europe the humidity level combined with the heat were such that we are more determined to purchase solar panels which would provide enough electricity to run fans, lights and our laptops.

Off to cool in Europe

In May, we left for a holiday in Europe. SIL Chad recommends that SILers leave the country for a month each year. In Brussels, we had a lovely family reunion. It felt very cold the first weekend but we soon adjusted to the cooler climate. We visited friends in Norway where it even snowed in the mountains! We felt we had a taste of the winter we'd missed! In Bourne, we also had a reunion with David's family. We shared about SIL Chad in the Baptist church. Back in Brussels, we were grateful to have some time with Evelyn's mother who underwent surgery a few days after we returned to Chad. She is recovering well. We were pleased to celebrate Evelyn's parents' 40th wedding anniversary. It was so nice to relax in familiar environments after 10 months of change. We returned to Chad feeling refreshed!

Famine in Chad

In April, we found out that our guard Andre and his family had gone without food for 4 days unbeknown to us. They had several cases of illness in the family, which depleted their resources, and unfortunately their eldest daughter died of an infection to the brain that was not properly treated. This opened our eyes to the precarious situation Chadians are in.

This year there is famine once again. In some areas it is the worst in memory. Please pray for wisdom as we try to help.

Many thanks for your prayers, letters and support! *David & Evelyn*

Praise the Lord with us

- That we can stay in 'our' house. It's good to feel more settled now
- Evelyn's Mum surgery went well. Thank you for your prayers!
- For safety in travel and a restful holiday in May/June. We feel refreshed!
- Evelyn is mentored by Elisabeth Gfeller, a consultant here to teach at ATP and help develop bilingual education in the schools.

Please pray with us

- For the use of a vehicle, we'll soon have to return the one we borrowed.
- For a solar system that will provide for our needs.
- For good health and openness to God as we grown in Him.
- The work on the training centre will be completed on time for ATP course.
- For wisdom to know how to help during the famine – crops have failed and next year the famine may be even worse.

Our Address in Chad

David & Evelyn Baines
BP 4214
N'djamena,
Chad

david_baines@sil.org
evelyn_baines@sil.org

Just drop us an email if you would like to receive Baines Broadcast by email.

Wycliffe Belgium

St. Jansbergsesteenweg 97
B-3001 HEVERLEE
BELGIUM

Tel: 016 20 04 42

wycliffe.belg@wycliffe.org

Account number for gifts:
428.6082381-29

Please mark: 'Projet Tchad'

Wycliffe UK-Scotland

129 High Street
LIDLITHGOW
EH49 7EJ
UK

Tel: 01506 840500

scotland_uk@wycliffe.org

Please mark gifts to this address with:

"For David & Evelyn Baines"



WBT, Horsleys Green,
High Wycombe, Bucks,
HP14 3XL UK